PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE

GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

MARCH 15, 2007

6:00 p.m.

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

A P P E A R A N C E S

BARRY LAWSON, Hearing Officer
Barry Lawson Associates

RAYMOND V. FURSTENAU
U.S. Department of Energy

RICHARD BLACK
U.S. Department of Energy

March 15, 2007 6:00 p.m.

(The hearing proceeded as follows:)

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very much and good evening. Welcome to this public scoping meeting on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. The development of an environmental impact statement for this project by the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy is required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

My name is Barry Lawson and I will serve as the facilitator for this meeting. My role is to ensure that this meeting runs on schedule and that everyone has an opportunity to speak. No short order. I am not an employee of the Department of Energy nor am I an advocate or for any party, position, or location.

At the registration table, you probably received a participant's packet. It contains important information on the presentation to be made in a few minutes and is a convenient place to take notes during the briefing that will follow in a few minutes.

I would also ask -- I was going to mention this later, but the timing is perfect, that I

would ask you if you would turn off your cell phones and pagers.

There are three purposes for tonight's meeting. The first is to provide you with information on the contents of the proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, or what is often called the PEIS, and on the National Environmental Policy Act, often referred to as NEPA, which governs that process.

The second purpose is to answer questions on the proposed PEIS and NEPA that you had and those questions would have been asked earlier in the display area out front. Of course, some of the presentation may answer some of the questions that you have as well.

The third purpose is to receive and to record your comments on the scope of the proposed EIS. And I probably will remind you more than once this evening that because we have a limitation on time, it is imperative that you not waste your time and direct your attention to the scope of the EIS. The agenda for tonight's meeting reflects all of these purposes.

We will begin this portion of the meeting with introductory remarks by video from Mr.

Dennis Spurgeon, who is DOE's assistant secretary for nuclear energy. That will be followed by a presentation by Mr. Raymond Furstenau regarding the proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for GNEP, which is the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. Mr. Furstenau is the deputy manager for Nuclear Energy here at the DOE Idaho Operations Office.

If you have any unanswered questions that you may have during the evening, or following the meeting, project staff will be available at the display tables, which is in the small room behind this room.

They will answer any questions that you may have about the PEIS as well as the NEPA process and any of the contents of the material that's on display out in the display area.

Following his presentation, we will recess for a very brief time just enough time for us to get organized for the formal meeting. That means getting the stenographer set up, for me in particular to get the official list of people who are going to speak, so I would ask you at that time that if you want to stretch that would be great, but I would prefer that you not go too far from your chair

because obviously I want to get going as fast as possible on the comments.

Once we reconvene, the court reporter will be available to receive your comments and your suggestions regarding the scope of the GNEP proposed PEIS. All your comments will be transcribed and made part of the permanent record.

So right now what I'd like to do is have us begin with the video presentation by Mr. Dennis Spurgeon.

(The PEIS video was presented.)

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Great. Moving right along now, I am pleased to introduce to you Mr. Raymond Furstenau. Mr. Furstenau is the deputy manager for Nuclear Energy at the DOE Idaho Operations Office. He will discuss the background of the project and its purpose and the basic elements of the proposed EIS.

MR. FURSTENAU: Thank you. I also welcome and appreciate everyone coming out tonight. The crowds -- sorry, we didn't have seats for everyone. We were at Hanford a couple of days ago, our traveling group of folks here, and I think this beats the Hanford crowd.

After this meeting, there's two more

public scoping meetings left; one in Washington, D.C. on the next Monday, the 19th, so if you happen to be there, you're welcome to go to that one; and then one more on the 26th of this month in Hood River, Oregon.

What I'd like to talk about tonight -- I may skip over some of these quickly because we really want to spend the time listening to your comments as well.

A little bit on nuclear power basics. The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, both the international and domestic aspects of that, the proposed GNEP facilities that Mr. Spurgeon referred to, the National Environmental Policy Act itself, and the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement process for GNEP.

Nuclear power in this country provides about 20 percent of our electricity needs. Nuclear power reactors don't admit air pollution. They are an admission freeway of generating electricity. And a typical commercial reactor that's used in the U.S. is depicted here.

The U.S. uses two kinds of commercial reactors; they're both referred to as light water reactors. One's a pressurized water reactor and a boiling water reactor, and they basically use the

nuclear fission process to generate heat which in turn is used to boil water and generate electricity through a turbine, a turbine generator.

After completing an operating cycle, typically 18 to 24 months, sodium uranium in a commercial power reactor is considered used up or spent, and it must be replaced by fresh fuel. And two approaches for spent fuel management are what we use right now in the U.S. which is an open cycle or once through cycle, and that's the current approach. And then the GNEP approach is a closed cycle or recycle.

Right now there is a projection that worldwide demand for electricity is expected to double by the year 2030. In the U.S. during that same time period, we're expecting the demand to increase by 50 percent. So the U.S. is pursuing an increased energy from a first source, such as nuclear and waste protection and improve the environment as well hence our nation's energy security.

This picture here basically shows you a number of things; 1, the power reactors that are in use today. And even though the U.S. hasn't built any for awhile, we still have more commercial power reactors than any other nation in the world.

What you can also see by this is the countries that are under construction and the numbers that are planned, so you can debate the numbers, but even a conservative scenario, reactors are going to be built worldwide in the future.

Then the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. Why do it and why now? There's a rapidly -- as I mentioned -- a rapidly expanding global demand for nuclear power. And without some sort of a global partnership, or arrangement to management this, the expansion has the potential of spreading enrichment and reprocessing technologies for uses for the wrong purposes.

A global partnership is developing among nations like Russia, France, and Japan, and China, and they have the will and the means to participate. In the United States through GNEP, we're looking at leading the formation of this global partnership, but right now we don't have the means to participate in that execution and we have to build that means through the domestic part of GNEP.

Unless the U.S. implements it's domestic aspects, we will suffer significant consequences in our energy security, our nation's industrial competitiveness, and our national security, and there

are potential repository benefits. The international need just in itself is the compelling case for GNEP.

And to end this slide, the U.S., we must act decisively and quickly to implement GNEP or face the real possibility of having no influence over the certain future global expansion of nuclear energy, so it's either done with or without us.

Going to the international part of GNEP, some of the key elements of the strategy is to provide reliable fuel services worldwide for generating nuclear energy without spreading the enrichment and reprocessing technologies.

The second point is developing advanced proliferation resistant power reactors appropriate for grids in developing countries. Not everyone wants large power reactors like the U.S. uses. Some of them need smaller reactors for smaller power grids for water desalination or for process heat.

And also another point internationally is developing cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance nuclear safeguards to monitor nuclear materials and facilities to ensure that commercial nuclear energy systems are only used for peaceful purposes.

The domestic efforts is to expand

nuclear power to help meet our growing energy demand in an environmentally sustainable manner and to develop, demonstrate full technologies, advanced technologies for recycling spent nuclear fuel in manners that don't separate plutonium, and also to develop and demonstrate and deploy advanced reactors that can consume and destroy the transuranic elements from recycled spent fuel.

The GNEP facilities, the fuel cycle facilities that Mr. Spurgeon was referring to, we're evaluating three types of facilities: A nuclear fuel recycling center, that would be used to separate spent fuel into the reusable uranium and transuranic components, and the transuranics being neptunium, plutonium, americium, and curium, from the non-reusable constituents without separating out the pure plutonium. This is a key difference between past reprocessing and the concept under GNEP is for non-proliferation issues keeping the plutonium not as a pure product, but combined with the transuranics is a key non-proliferation aspect of GNEP.

A nuclear fuel recycling center also fabricates fuel from transuranics for uses in the recycling reactor and the PEIS as it's being developed will analyze alternative technologies and

spent fuel throughputs anywhere between 100 and 3,000 metric tons per year.

The second facility being the Advanced Recycle Reactor that would be used to destroy transuranics while generating electricity, and the currently proposed technology is using a sodium fast reactor. A look at power ratings from 250 to 2,000 megawatts thermal.

And the third facility is Advanced Fuel Cycle Research Facility, more of an R&D facility, to support new separations technologies and the fabrication techniques for the transmutation fuel. It would be used for long-term research and development of advanced fuel cycle technologies. This would be built on a -- and operated on a DOE site.

And this picture pictorially depicts what I was referring to earlier in this concept light water reactor spent fuel would come in from commercial power plants.

Are you having trouble hearing back there or is it better? Better? All right. Thanks.

And the material would come into a process storage at the site, this would be located where the spent fuel separations would occur. Then

you have several lines going out. The excess uranium would be -- there's still a lot -- that's where the recycled technique comes in using the uranium that comes out of this project. This project could be used in new fuel fabrication to go back into light water reactors.

And then the waste forms, part of the design features of the facilities is to have robust waste forms, which means our waste streams would be in a solidified form, not looking for large quantities of liquid storage on-site. We're going to solidify or vitrify the waste.

Also going into the Fuel Fabrication Facilities for the transportation fuel would be done at the Advanced Fuel Cycle Facility initially to develop the technique, and later on it could possibly be incorporated then into the Spent Nuclear Separations Facility.

Those transuranic fuels would then be loaded into the advanced reactor, the sodium fast reactor, and that would use -- consume the transuranics as well as use them as fuel and generate electricity.

The NEPA process: The stage we're at right now is at the "you are here arrow." Earlier

last year right after the GNEP concept was announced, an advanced Notice of Intent was issued. And we received quite a bit of input on that and those comments were fed into the actual Notice of Intent that talked about these public scoping meetings, and that was issued in January of 2007, and we're in the scoping process right now.

And during these -- after those scoping meetings, the next step will be to issue a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. We're expecting that later this summer and public comments will be taken on that draft EIS and we're looking to try to issue a final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement late in the spring of 2008 with a Record of Decision in the summer of 2008.

And the purpose of the GNEP EIS is to assess reasonable alternatives that encourage expansion in nuclear energy, reduce nuclear proliferation risk, and reduce the volume, thermal output and toxicity of spent fuel before disposal in a geological repository.

The domestic programmatic alternatives that the EIS will be looking at is our alternative 1 is a no action alternative. That's the -- basically maintain the status quo having a once-through fuel

cycle and can continue nuclear fuel cycle research and development.

Our alternative 2 is the GNEP proposed actions. And there's several possibilities within alternative No. 2 that we'll be looking at.

The GNEP site alternatives are listed here. This says the same thing with a little bit different format where the sites are lined up along the site of the DOE and non-DOE sites and what facilities they're being considered for.

On the GNEP proposed site alternatives, those who appear tonight are the ones of local interest, Idaho National Laboratory, of course, that's in the DOE site, it's been identified by DOE as a potential site for the Advanced Fuel Cycle Research Facility.

Research facilities have also been proposed by the Regional Development Alliance in response to a financial system, funding opportunity announcement, that DOE put out last year, and that was to do siting studies for potential sites. And those siting studies are ongoing right now. They're all due to DOE by May 1st. And after that time, they'll be available for public release, and so we plan to make those available for the public at that

time.

The other site is Atomic City, Idaho. That's a non-DOE site. That site was proposed by Energy Solutions and it's in the same way was in response to our funding opportunity announcement. It's being considered for a recycling center and advanced recycling reactor.

A key international GNEP activity is just working with partner nations on fuel service programs and reactor programs to promote the proliferation resistant reactors designed to meet the needs of developing economies.

The EIS is not proposing any specific action related to these international initiatives. It will be a general, a more qualitative analysis of potential impacts.

These are some of the PEIS environmental issues that will be addressed. And the Record of Decision, it will determine whether to proceed with the construction and operation of the recycling facilities and, if so, it will address what type of technologies and capabilities to utilize as well as the identification of qualified locations.

DOE's decision will be based on input from the PEIS as well as cost, technical, and policy

information.

And we're really here tonight, we want the public to help -- help us making sound decisions throughout the process, so we're encouraging your comments here tonight, written comments, visit our Web site, and look for more information there.

We want you to continue to be involved, be able to comment when the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement is issued. And there's many ways to provide your comments here, by mail, by e-mail, by telephone, or by fax. And that comment period is open until April 4th. Thanks for your attention.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Furstenau.

Now, we're going to take the time to allow you to chat among yourselves. I'm going to pretend that you have a rope tying you to your chair because I really do want to get going. We have an awful lot of people who are going to speak tonight. And I have been telling some people that we're going to have a three-minute limit. I really am going to give gold stars to people who can make it in two minutes because we -- even if everyone went two minutes, we'd still be here until a quarter to ten.

So that's only two minutes, so if you can think ahead to getting your major points down to two minutes, that would be great.

And let me also just say that we'll reconvene as soon as we can. I need to get an official list. We're going to have some people speaking -- I mean, sitting up here to take your comments.

And so I'm just going to break now for about three or four minutes, and stretch if you'd like to, but please try to stay near your seats. Thank you.

(Recess.)

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you all very much. It's now time to receive your formal comments on the scope of the proposed PEIS. This is your opportunity to let DOE know what you would like to see addressed in that draft document.

A court reporter now will translate your statement, and our reporter tonight is Lani Lewis, and she is seated up here in the front row. Please cooperate with her in making her task as easy as possible, and that has three components: One is that you speak distinctly; No. 2, is you speak loudly, and for the rest of us that we keep our noise down so

that everybody can hear the testimony and especially the court reporter.

For those of you who have arrived a little later, my name is Barry Lawson. I'm the moderator for the meeting. I am not a DOE official or an employee, nor am I an advocate for any particular position or location.

Let me just briefly review a few ground rules for the formal comments. When I call your name, would you please step to this microphone over here to my right, and to your left, introduce yourself, and provide an organizational affiliation where it is appropriate.

If you have a written version of your statement, please provide a copy to the court reporter after you have completed your remarks. Also please give the reporter any additional attachments to your statement that you wish to have entered into the transcript. Each will be labeled and submitted for inclusion in the formal record.

Now, let me just also break here for a couple comments to tell you that written comments have the same weight as oral comments, and so if you do have written comments, or even if you don't have written comments, if you submit them before the end

of the comment period, that will suffice. So you don't have to feel that you need to say everything that you have to say orally.

I will call three or four names at a time. That doesn't mean we'll have three people speaking at a time. The first will be the speaker who is next on the microphone, and the others will be invited to move up to the front of the room. We have some spare seats here, and you're invited to move up front here so that we can move right along and be prepared to speak when it's your turn.

I would ask you to stay on your topic, and that if any of you find the two minutes that I allow you is not sufficient, you are invited to come back after everyone has had an opportunity to say what he or she would like to say in their two minutes. Okay.

As I say, in view of the number of people who have indicated an interest in speaking, I'm asking you to cut your comments to two minutes if you would, please, and I will give you a 15 or 20 second warning when you're approaching the end of your time.

Mr. Richard Black will be serving as the hearing officer for the formal comment period. He is

the person over to my far right. He is the associate deputy assistant secretary in DOE's office for Nuclear Energy in Washington. And Mr. Furstenau will join him at that table.

Neither of these gentleman will be responding to any questions or comments that are made during this formal session. If you do ask a question, I will consider it a rhetorical question and it will probably in all likelihood be addressed by the Department and in preparation of the PEIS.

Now, as I said the other night in Pasco when we had almost as many people as we have here, my job is only done as well as the cooperation I get from people. And I know that this is very, very tough for you tonight, especially those of you who are standing, so I ask you to just bear with us.

We are likely to have people who are going to express different points of view, and I fully expect, being the good Idahoans as you are, that everybody will respect everybody's point of view. I would appreciate that.

If you do need to have a conversation, please consider the people who are standing next to you who are trying to hear the presentation. If you want to go outside of this lodge hall for that

conversation, I invite you to do that. Also another announcement, please turn off your cell phones and pagers, if you will, and there is to be no alcoholic beverages in this room.

I plan to take a five-minute break for the stenographer every hour or an hour and 15 minutes, or so, and I thank you in advance for helping me make this meeting both respectful and productive.

We're now ready to go, and I will tell you in advance that some of you have beautiful handwriting. It's absolutely gorgeous. However, we are having trouble reading what it says. I say that to protect myself. I'm going to do the best that I can do, and they've done the best that they can as well, so just bear with me, and hopefully we will get these done as well as possible.

Okay. The first four speakers, the first one will be Knut Meyerin. The second one Leslie Huddleston. The third, Laurel Hall, and the fourth, Mick Webster. And I'll take Mr. Meyerin first.

KNUT MEYERIN: Good evening. My name is Knut Meyerin. I'm Senator Craig's regional director here in Idaho Falls, and I have a letter from the

Senator addressed to Secretary Bodman.

As the federal government considers committing significant funds to the most comprehensive new approach to nuclear energy since President Eisenhower's Atoms Peace Vision, I commend the Department of Energy for presenting the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership plan to the citizens of this nation.

For too long the government has embraced a policy of announcing major new initiatives and then not following through. We won't go down that path again with something as critical as GNEP. Its potential for dramatically strengthening the U.S. global energy security is too great.

With that said, my Idaho colleagues and I want to make a couple of points abundantly clear right from the start: First, let me assure you that we continue to work hard to make certain the DOE gets the appropriation support needed to advance the energy security of this nation, which includes solid backing for GNEP.

In return, we expect the DOE to live up to the agency's commitment to make the Idaho National Laboratory the nation's lead nuclear research development and demonstration resource. The

departments must look very carefully at the INL on making decisions on siting new nuclear research facilities.

Idaho has an unmatched legacy of advancing state of the art nuclear technologies for peaceful use. Eastern Idaho was selected in 1949 as the most suitable place in the nation to host the National Reactor Testing Station. And it was at this site that usable electricity for nuclear power was first generated where breeder technology was demonstrated, where world-leading reactor safety codes were developed, and the world's largest reactor reservation was created.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: May I ask you to wrap up in the next 30 seconds, please.

KNUT MEYERIN: Of all the sites the DOE is considering for GNEP facilities, only Idaho has the heritage and unmatched team of researchers coupled with a huge secure site as essential for mission success.

GNEP is a crucial step in the quest for global prosperity made possible by clean, reliable, and secure sources of energy like nuclear. GNEP is the future of nuclear power, and Idaho is the location where GNEP's first facilities belong.

Thank you. Sincerely yours, Larry Craig, United States Senator.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker will be Leslie Huddleston to be followed by Laurel Hall, Mick Webster and Jared Furhiman.

LESLIE HUDDLESTON: I'm Leslie Huddleston and I am submitting comments for U.S. Senator Mike Crapo.

The importance of nuclear energy to Idaho, our nation, our world, cannot be understated. We have come a long way from the historic nuclear powering of Atomic City in the 1950s. Current technology cannot be denied. The potential we have created, and what is already in place, must be explored with the full support and input of public and private partnerships.

These partnerships are -- these partnerships are the most responsible way to promote these technologies and move forward on nuclear energy development. They tap into the best resources of both worlds. Proliferation, resistant technologies are the key to effective, secure, and responsible recycling of the spent fuel and reduced waste.

Clean and cost effective energy is in

the public good. Utilizing the full potential of nuclear energy and reducing waste is a responsible policy to pursue. It is also in the broader security interests of our nation to reach out to other nation states who want to deal with nuclear energy in a responsible, modern fashion meeting the energy needs of their own citizens.

If we reach out, as the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership suggests, we gain influence and working relationships that may help mitigate future conflicts.

The private sector has been spearheading the United States nuclear mission for over half a century. With new federal support of GNEP, NGNP, Generation 4, and other revolutionary nuclear initiatives, the private sector has historical opportunity to participate in meaningful, mutual growth and community improvements.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of its employees, the Idaho National Laboratory has established itself as the nation's premiere laboratory for nuclear energy research, development, demonstration, and education.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

LESLIE HUDDLESTON: We have proven that we have the technological expertise advanced facilities, and unmatched support for our laboratory here in Idaho.

This community and our state are more than qualified and fully ready to take on this new and exciting international challenge. Clearly, Idahoans are energized and I stand ready, willing, and able to support the administration's GNEP efforts.

I fully support siting the GNEP here in Idaho Falls.

Sincerely, Mike Crapo, U.S. Senator, Idaho.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Laurel Hall. She'll be followed by Mick Webster, Jared Furhiman, Mark Ricks.

LAUREL HALL: I'm representing Congressman Simpson.

Dear Secretary Bodman: I want to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the Department of Energy's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and explain why I support this exciting new effort.

First and foremost, if our nation is to

maintain its standard of living, grow its economy, and at the same time curb greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, it has no other choice but to embark on a sustained effort to expand the use of nuclear power.

The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership promises to facilitate our nation's expansion of nuclear by looking to policies abandoned long ago in the United States but embraced for decades overseas.

I have long believed that we should apply to nuclear power the same conservation ethic we apply to aluminum, glass, paper, and other reusable materials. Nuclear fuel retains roughly 95 percent of its usable energy after it has first passed through and into a reactor. Burying these barely used fuel rods and their massive energy potential in Yucca Mountain is the functional equivalent to putting gold back into the mine.

Through GNEP, we can recover usable energy, minimize the amount of long-lived high level waste requiring repository disposal and separate our short-lived fission products for disposal as low level waste. GNEP will afford us the ability to incorporate transuranic elements, which we now plan to dispose of as waste in the repository, into new,

recycled fuel source and burn it all in a fast reactor.

It allows us the access to the vast benefits of recycling without separating out plutonium from other radioactive elements of the fuel, a potential source of diversion for use in nuclear weapons and long the Achilles' heel of other recycling technologies.

In my view, the approach here is fundamentally no different than those being examined in other sectors of our energy economy, such as the use of agricultural waste to produce bio-energy. And across the board re-evaluate -- re-evaluation of our approach to energy and wringing every last kilowatt hour or BTU out of our energy system --

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds.

LAUREL HALL: -- is going to be essential over the long term if we are ever to reduce our large and growing dependence, our energy now coming from the most volatile regions of the world, and as we compete for energy resources with global competitors such as as China and India.

As enthused as I am about the national impact of GNEP, I am even more excited about the positive impact it will have on Idaho and its

federally owned nuclear laboratory; home to more nuclear reactors than any other site in our nation's history.

The Idaho National Laboratory is prepared to lead on all three major components of GNEP. INL has the history facilities and expertise to lead this effort for our nation. It has the local, regional, statewide, federal support required to tackle some of the complex challenges that will face any proposal to host GNEP facilities.

I am also pleased to confirm that INL is supported by a united congressional delegation well suited to promote GNEP's benefits in Congress and help secure the critical funding required of such an ambitious effort.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: I'm going to have to ask you to wrap up, please.

LAUREL HALL: I stand committed to this effort and look forward to working with you, INL, and everyone at the DOE to do everything I can to make the promise of GNEP a reality.

Sincerely, Congressman Mike Simpson.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Okay. Thank you. The toughest thing I do up here is to tell people they only have 6 seconds, but I'm sorry I do

need to do it.

Our next speaker is Mick Webster to be followed by Jared Furhiman, Mark Ricks and Janice McGeachin.

MICK WEBSTER: Good evening. I am Mick Webster. I work for Senator Craig here in Idaho Falls, but I've been asked by Congressman Sali to read his remarks tonight.

So with that, I'm pleased to see the Department of Energy roll out its ambitious new Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. I support the technology needed to implement the advanced nuclear fuel recycling that is an important part of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

To say that I feel strongly about nuclear power is an understatement. My father worked in the nuclear industry when I was young and supported my family well as he did his part to help develop what was then still a fledgling technology.

In the ensuing decades, much has been learned about the mysteries of the atom, but I know there is still more to know. I'm equally pleased to see the DOE commit to listening before acting. Conducting hearings across the nation to find out what the people who will be paying for this important

initiative think is the absolute right thing to do. And I'm sure you'll get some excellent feedback while you visit with my fellow Idahoans.

We in Idaho are proud of the historic contributions we've made to advance nuclear power for both the commercial industry and for the nuclear navy. We're also proud of the state's growing reputation as a science and technology center headquarters home to such engineering and technology powerhouses as Micron, AMI Semiconductor, and Washington Group International, and the state with more patents issued per capita than any other.

Clearly from the fertile grounds of Idaho can spring the kind of ideal site required for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership to succeed as well. Our state is both tech savvy and business friendly. And as I've found while I was in Idaho Falls for the recent groundbreaking for the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, our university presidents, top state and local leaders, and INL employees are ready to step up to the plate and help resolve this nation's energy supply and security challenges.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds.

MICK WEBSTER: The Global Nuclear Energy

Partnership will enhance U.S. national security by reducing the nuclear proliferation threat around the world. That is a more important goal today than ever before. Ensuring a dependable source of nuclear fuel for emerging nations will eliminate the development of enrichment and reprocessing facilities in nations utilizing nuclear power. Hundreds of reactors will be built around the world with or without the participation of the United States.

The United States can take a leadership role allowing emerging nations to use nuclear power without the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation. Now is the time to eliminate the need for countries such as North Korea and Iran to build facilities that produce weapons using nuclear materials.

Thank you for considering my endorsement of the GNEP initiative and my strong recommendation that you carefully consider the obvious wisdom of performing associated nuclear energy research at the nation's top technology location, Idaho.

Sincerely, Bill Sali, United States Congressman.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Now for those of you who have written statements, and particularly if you're speaking for somebody else, tell them when

you get home that that stinker Lawson only held you to two minutes so you don't get blamed for not repeating the whole thing.

Our next speaker is Jared Furhiman to be followed by Mark Ricks, Janice McGeachin and John McGimpsey. Please.

JARED FURHIMAN: I've been asked by Governor Otter to read a statement. He has to excuse -- the excuse this evening, he's in meetings involving some education.

It states: Dear Secretary Bodman, as an Idaho native and now governor, it is a source of great pride that Idaho has been among the nations' leaders in nuclear energy technology almost from the dawn of the atomic age.

Idaho has pioneered the future from establishment of the National Reactor Testing Station in 1949, and Experimental Breeder Reactor No. 1's production of the world's first fission-generated electricity in 1951, to cutting edge research on waste remediation technology in recent years.

Now, more than ever, it is vitally important that we pursue initiatives promoting U.S. security and economic well-being through clean, safe alternatives to fossil-based and foreign energy

sources.

Throughout our long history with nuclear energy, Idaho time and time again has proven to have a unique combination of geography, experience, expertise, and willingness to shoulder its responsibilities in concert with federal agencies.

As a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, I consistently supported maintaining and enhancing nuclear power's tremendous potential in our energy portfolio.

I look forward to working with the U.S. Department of Energy in my new capacity as Idaho helps to realize the potential by once again pioneering the future.

As always, Idaho Governor C.L. Butch Otter.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Thank you. Our next speaker is Mark Ricks to be followed by Janice McGeachin, John McGimpsey, and Jack Barraclough.

MARK RICKS: Thank you, Mr. Facilitator. My name is Mark G. Ricks, a former lieutenant governor of the State of Idaho. I've been asked by our current lieutenant governor, former governor

James E. Risch to represent him here this evening. He's out of the state.

He sent a letter over and asked that we read it here this evening since the hair -- since the sun has bleached my hair more than I would like it to be. It's effected my vision a little, so I'm going to ask former Senator Ann Rydalch if she will read the letter from our lieutenant governor, James E. Risch. We want you to know, Mr. Facilitator, we appreciate all of you and we welcome you here to Idaho here this evening.

ANN RYDALCH: Dear Secretary Bodman, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write this letter in support of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and the participation of Idaho in that partnership.

I have followed the issue closely. I am confident that Idaho would be the premiere location for this program. Idahoans are well aware that the president of the United States and the United States Department of Energy have determined that this country's national interests are best served by creating an orderly international framework and technology basis to guide the accelerating global expansion of nuclear energy. We strongly support

that policy.

No other state in the nation has the proud nuclear legacy of Idaho. Idaho is without a doubt the most suitable and preferred site for GNEP and other advanced nuclear and energy security research. Idaho welcomes the opportunity to participate in this historical and what I believe to be a national security venture and we will accommodate in every reasonable way the accomplishment of the chosen objectives.

I will offer whatever resources I can to ensure the continued success of the Idaho National Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy moving forward on the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

Very truly yours, James E. Risch, Lieutenant Governor of Idaho.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you both very much. Our next speaker is Janice McGeachin to be followed by John McGimpsey, Jack Barraclough, and FarrDell Hayes.

JANICE McGEACHIN: Good evening. I'm State Representative Janice McGeachin from District 32 here in Idaho Falls.

The Idaho legislature stands in full support of both the GNEP initiative and its siting

here in Idaho at the INL site. And I'm here tonight to present to you Senate Joint Memorial 107, which just passed through the full legislature and is signed by Senator Bob Geddes, president pro tem, and Senator Bart Davis, Senate Majority Leader. I will just read through this as far as I can get.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Dear Mr. President, we are memorialist, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the first regular session of this 59th Idaho legislature do hereby respectfully represent that whereas it is in the best interest of Idaho individually and the United States as a whole to embrace an energy policy that encompasses a diverse array of sources so as to avoid economic dislocations associated with undue reliance on any single domestic or foreign energy source, while also accommodating carbon management concern.

And with as much of the developing role has already begun, an ambitious effort to expand the use of non-carbon emitting nuclear power to supply its rapidly escalating demand for reliable base load energy and whereas the President of the United States and the United States DOE have determined that this country's national interest are best served by

creating an orderly international frame work and technology basis to guide the accelerating global expansion of nuclear energy.

And whereas this new frame work is embodied in the GNEP proposal which speaks to establish an international approach to extend the benefits of abundant nuclear generated electricity to both the develop -- and developing worlds get the most energy possible from one of nature's most energy advanced power sources, create a final waste form requiring management attention for a more limited amount of time and greatly decrease the potential for misuse of used nuclear fuel.

Whereas community leaders in Eastern Idaho have come together to identify a site in response to the DOE's request for help realizing no other state in the nation has the proud nuclear legacy of Idaho where usable electricity from the atom was first generated, greater technology was first proven, life-saving medical and industrial isotopes can and have been produced and 52 remarkable nuclear reactors were designed and built.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

JANICE McGEACHIN: Whereas the long

standing partnership between Idaho and the federal government has resulted in countless improvements in the design and safety performance of both commercial and military nuclear power systems, as well as the cost effective and DOE complex leading performance of environmental clean-up activities as described by the detailed yet accommodative 1995 agreement that ensure our state's environment is protected now and would continue to be protected with any future project.

Now therefore be it resolved by the members of the first regular session, the Senate and the House, that Idaho supports the goals of the GNEP proposal and encourages this administration, the United States Congress, and the DOE to commit and provide the funding necessary to complete the GNEP initiative, which is critical to the long-term well-being of the United States, and to concur that Idaho is the most suitable and preferred site for the GNEP initiative.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: I notice there's a strategy here when you're using the whereas's and whereas's there are no periods. Very clever.

Okay. Our next speaker is John

McGimpsey and he's followed by Jack Barraclough and FarrDell Hayes and Ian Leatherman. Please.

JOHN McGIMPSEY: Good evening. My name is John McGimpsey and I've been asked by Representative Jerry Shively, the State Representative from District 33 here in Idaho Falls to read a statement.

To Mr. Timothy Frazier, having lived in Idaho Falls, Idaho all my life, I have followed with interest what's happened at the site since its inception with the Atomic Energy Commission.

In that time I have met literally hundreds of well-educated people who have made their living working in the Atomic Energy Industry. All have been good citizens of our community and have been dedicated to the job at hand solving our national energy problems.

Idaho Falls is in a unique position to utilize the workforce and facilities for the Global Nuclear Energy Project. I heartily support this project being located at the Idaho National Laboratory west of Idaho Falls.

Sincerely, Representative Jerry Shively, District 33A.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir.

You get the record.

The next speaker is Jack Barraclough, who will be followed by FarrDell Hayes, Ian Leatherman and Ida Hardcastle.

JACK BARRACLOUGH. I'm going to read a letter from Representative Russ Matthews, District 33 in Idaho Falls.

Dear Secretary Spurgeon, I wish to go on record in support of GNEP. As a co-sponsor and strong advocate for Senate Joint Memorial 107 adopted by the Idaho Legislature, please know that research in Idaho is welcome and should go forward at the Idaho National laboratory.

The Senate Joint Memorial passed the 105 legislatures with nine descending votes, so more than 90 percent of the state legislatures supported this proposal.

Furthermore, utilization at the INEL site in southern Idaho will go a long way to ensure the attainment of GNEP's goals. They include, but are not limited to the following: Reducing America's dependence on traditional fossil fuels, developing safe energy sources for a cleaner atmosphere, minimizing the risk of nuclear proliferation by radical regimes and organizations, performing

research to safely manage and recycle nuclear fuels.

Thank you for your consideration. And I'd like to say that the last two legislatures are brief, why don't they do that in Boise?

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Our next speaker is FarrDell Hayes to be followed by Ian Leatherman, Ida Hardcastle, and Bob Smith.

FARRDELL HAYES: And if you'll bear with me just a second. The mayors that we will be representing, there are 17 of us cities that have been asked to speak, and Mayor Furhiman wherever you have gotten to, we'd like to have you up here also. Thank you.

This is where we got on to the program.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I see. You had me worried there.

FARRDELL HAYES: So if you would do me a favor, this is from the City of Idaho Falls letterhead, rather than having 17 of us stand up and do two minutes at a time, we're all going to stand behind Mayor Furhiman with our support.

MAYOR JARED FURHIMAN: Now, with that being the case, we get a little bit of absolution right on --

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Nice try. You

better be good, no whereas.

MAYOR JARED FURHIMAN: But before you start the clock, please let me recognize the cities that are up here representing us. We have mayors from Pocatello, Rexburg, Iona, Ucon, Dubois, St. Anthony, Driggs, Roberts, Ammon, Blackfoot, Shelley, Ririe, Arco, Salmon, Chubbuck, and Victor. They've all endorsed this speech and it's a collective speech from them. Can we negotiate?

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Go ahead.

MAYOR JARED FURHIMAN: On behalf of the cities of eastern Idaho, we want to voice our support for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and assure the Department of Energy that we welcome the siting of the GNEP facility in our community, in our communities. Excuse me.

Like solar and wind power and other forms of renewable energy, nuclear power represents the future. The days when we would cost, depend on fossil fuels to power American industry without regard to the environmental impacts are over.

We in eastern Idaho are ready to do our part to help the U.S. to meet energy challenges while expanding our economy and protecting our national security. Eastern Idaho communities are proud of the

Idaho National Laboratory, the birthplace of peaceful applications and atomic energy.

The INL has been a good neighbor for over 50 years conducting research to support national defense and energy security. We appreciate what INL has brought to our region, its educated work -- our workforce, good schools, interesting well-paying jobs, and a chance to participate in important work that helps build a solid future for our country and our children.

Our citizens are also knowledgeable when it comes to nuclear energy. We recognize that it's an inexhaustible energy source that supports sustainable development. We understand the concerns of nuclear waste management, the potential for nuclear proliferation and economics have slowed growth of nuclear power in the U.S. and that the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership addresses all those issues.

Above all, we have confidence in the ability of our neighbors -- the scientists, and engineers with the INL -- to find solutions to these problems and help the world move to a more secure energy future.

We are very proud of the work of our

current contractors of INL, namely, Battelle Energy Alliance, CWI, and BBI -- BBWI for their efforts. It is comforting to us, the city leaders, to have our contractors actually "walking the talk" that they've promised us.

We are experiencing the substantial amount of waste being shipped out of Idaho for the first time in many years in conjunction with the wonderful research and development occurring in our facilities. We also had a recent ground breaking of the New Center for Advanced Energy Studies building all of which has solidified our trust and confidence even more in Idaho's nuclear future.

You now have heard from our Governor, Congressional delegation, and state legislatures endorsing the initiatives involving nuclear energy in our state. Now speaking on behalf of the city leaders, we have complete confidence that the Settlement Agreement of the 1980s will be resolved between all parties.

This is a new era in our state and Idahoans look forward to future missions. The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership initiatives are the right thing for the State of Idaho and the entire country. It is time for our country to finally take control of

its own energy future and not be so dependent on outside support from foreign resources.

We also need to be less reliant on fossil fuels. We call on the Department of Energy, Congress, and the private sector to support all communities in this great nation of ours by finding ways to provide energy resources for the imminent demands that are on the horizon.

Finally, we want the Department of Energy to know that we speak for ourselves -- that thousands of eastern Idahoans strongly support new exciting missions at the INL. Idaho is poised and ready to begin the new era of nuclear energy that will benefit not only our state, but our nation and the world.

We would appreciate your consideration of our state as a site for any or all of the GNEP projects. Thank you.

I forgot Island Park, Idaho. I'm sorry.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Okay. Our next people will be Ian Leatherman, to be followed by Ida Hardcastle, Bob Smith, and Dave Radford.

IAN LEATHERMAN: My name is Ian Leatherman and with me is Caitlyn Hafla. We are members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council of

Idaho Falls.

And on behalf of the youth -- of the youth of this community, we would like to express our support for nuclear power, spent fuel recycling, and the new the projects proposed as part of the Global Nuclear Energy Project.

Young people of eastern Idaho have been raised and educated in a scientific community and employed by the Idaho National Laboratory through its many Student Outreach Programs. Our youth have been learning about nuclear energy since first grade in the Science -- at the Science and Engineering Expo, and started working in the nuclear environment as early as high school through internships.

Thanks to the strong math and science programs in our schools, our youth excel in these subjects and are ready to be the future of the GNEP program in Idaho.

Recycling nuclear fuel is the only option for the economic and environmental future of the United States and the rest of the world. Keeping up with the high energy demands of our generation is something that must be strived for.

Energy production must continue and we must reduce the threats, hassles, and cost of

indefinite fuel storage in our nation's repository. The well-being of the environment is an issue about which the youth of our community are very passionate. New power production reactors cannot be the solution to global warming when more spent fuel waste is created in the process.

The combination of more power producing reactors and the GNEP program is the solution. With more power, the nation can begin to rely purely on electrically based zero emissions energy storage and propulsion systems. Producing all of the nation's energy while fuel is recycled and broken down into short-lived radioactivity will prevent future environmental issues and concerns.

The youth of Bonneville County make up 30 percent of the county's total population. That 30 percent has more of a vested interest in this project and the future of any other -- and the future than any other age group.

The youth of Idaho are ready for the future and ready for the GNEP program to be in Idaho. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very much. Nice job. Our next speaker is Ida Hardcastle, to be followed by Bob Smith, Dave Radford, Lisa

Armijo.

IDA HARDCASTLE: I'm Ida Hardcastle. I'm president of the Idaho Falls City Council and on behalf of the council, we want to express our strong support for selection of eastern Idaho as the site for any or all of the projects associated with the Global Nuclear Partnership.

During the scoping period, you will receive hundreds of letters from community leaders and elected officials near the GNEP site expressing support for their selection. Let me tell you why we think we are best the possible choice. First, southeast Idaho has been the center of nuclear energy and research in the U.S. since scientists first produced nuclear power for electricity here at the Experiment Breeder Reactor-1 over 55 years ago.

The 51 reactor built here in the past, as well as the nuclear science, engineering, and research that continues today, are proof that we are the best in terms of institutional knowledge and skilled workforce to meet the Department of Energy's needs.

And in addition to that -- in addition to our scientists and engineers, we are one of the few DOE complex sites with trained, dedicated,

construction, professional experience in nuclear facility construction.

Second, we have great community support for the Idaho National Laboratory, and we're proud of what has been accomplished for our country. In addition, it has brought to us high-quality jobs, an educated workforce, higher education resources, and great friends and neighbors.

Those few groups that claim Idaho does not support nuclear projects are just plain wrong and do not speak for the vast majority of our community. A 2006 study by Boise State University shows that 80 percent of Idahoans and 95 percent of the citizens in this region support the Idaho National Laboratory as a good community member. The vast majority of us support nuclear and reactor research at the INL.

And finally and most important, is the quality of life that exists in this area with beautiful parks, first-class golf courses, many, many cultural interests, sporting events, nearby summer and winter attractions. Our city has a regional airport will multiple carriers, two hospitals, bandwidth and health communication services and major railroads. We also live in a very safe area. In fact, for the fourth year in a row, crime has dropped

again by 10 percent.

In summary, we support the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and would welcome any of its projects to our community.

This is signed by Council people, Ida Hardcastle, Tom Hally, Mike Lehto, Joe Groberg, Karen Cornwell, and Larry Lyon. Thank you all very much.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. All right. Thank you. Our next speaker is Bob Smith, then Dave Radford, Lisa Armijo, and Ralph Robison.

BOB SMITH: I'm here on behalf of President Tim White of the University of Idaho.

As the president of the University of Idaho, I strongly encourage your consideration of locating the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership facilities in Idaho. I regret that I was unable to join you in person this evening to articulate that the nexus of federal, state, and private educational, research and technology as assets that exist in Idaho make Idaho a wise locus of investment for America's energy future. I'm grateful that Dr. Robert W. Smith, Associate Vice President of the University of Idaho, is here to represent me and the university this evening.

The United States, indeed the world,

faces increased -- increasing demand for energy at a time when there is growing international consensus that the emission of greenhouse gases should be limited. Meeting this increased energy demand of the next several decades while ensuring economic growth and limiting greenhouse gases is a unprecedented challenge, one that will require the deployment of a mix of technologies and approaches.

While no single technology or approach will be adequate to meet our needs, revitalizing nuclear energy will be vital to our success, the cornerstone of the GNEP initiative. In deed, required technologies and approaches include improved energy efficiencies, increased renewable energy sources such as wind, expanding the availability of carbon neutral biofuels, deploying clean coal technologies with carbon capture and storage, and revitalizing nuclear energies. All approaches or technologies must be safe, cost effective and mindful of the environment.

The University of Idaho and its partners Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the Idaho National Laboratory have already embarked on an ambitious initiative to develop research, policy, and education programs supporting America's

clean and efficient energy future through the formation of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies.

As part of this initiative, the universities are enhancing nuclear science and engineering research and education in the State of Idaho by hiring new faculty in key disciplines and providing expanded student opportunities.

One goal of the GNEP is to facilitate the nuclear renaissance. A key to a nuclear renaissance is finding solutions for problems identified in the past that have limited the availability of nuclear energy.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

BOB SMITH: The successful implementation of GNEP will require the development and deployment of new environmentally benign and cost effective reprocessing and reactor technologies at large scale. Also required will be scientists, engineers, and others to design, build, and safely operate the facilities.

The University of Idaho has a history of contributing to the development of advanced energy systems. We are excited to participate and contribute to the revitalization of safe, cost

effective nuclear energy in the United States and throughout the world.

We are pleased that you are considering sites in Idaho and, again, reiterate our unequivocal support and admonition that the nexus for energy research of the future is here in the State of Idaho.

Sincerely, Timothy P. White, President of the University of Idaho.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is David Radford, to be followed by Lisa Armijo, Ralph Robison, and Rocky Deschamps.

DAVID RADFORD: Thanks, Mr. Lawson. My name is Dave Radford, Bonneville County Commissioner and president of East-Central Idaho Planning and Development Association. I'm reading this letter on behalf of our board members, if our board members could stand. We represent nine counties in eastern Idaho and 43 cities. We also have board members, and we also -- we represent over 180,000 residents here in eastern Idaho.

A letter will be given by -- also our commission chair for Bonneville County, Roger Christensen here in a minute.

East-Central Idaho Planning Development Association, a regional economic development

district, represents nine counties, 43 cities, 180,000 residents. Our board of directors consists of these individuals in elected capacities, business leaders, and educational institutions.

We respectfully submit our statement of support for the GNEP initiative and the location of this program here in eastern Idaho. We recognize the positive intent of the GNEP program reduction of radioactive waste, reduction of weapon's proliferation, reduction and storage requirements for spent nuclear fuels and the resulted benefits of the creation energy for our country and the world.

Eastern Idaho provides the GNEP program the following positive aspects: An established and experienced nuclear workforce; strong support for nuclear programs throughout the communities surrounding the Idaho site; an educational system supporting nuclear technology; a successful history of nuclear reactor design; the land site is over with the necessary infrastructure, transportation, electricity, water and land.

Our community is comfortable with nuclear technology understanding science and the safety and security aspects; a supporting workforce that is capable, educated, and willing to work.

Welcome to Idaho GNEP.

Sincerely, Dave Radford, President.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Lisa Armijo, Ralph Robison, Rocky Deschamps, and Lee Staker will follow, please.

LISA ARMIJO: My name is Lisa Armijo. I represent the Chamber of Commerce for the Greater Pocatello area. I'm the chairman of the board.

Other behalf of the board of directors for the Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce, I strongly support the GNEP initiative and the location of facilities in Idaho. I strongly believe that GNEP offers this country and the world's best hope for a clean, safe, abundant energy future.

The GNEP initiative appears in all respects to provide the necessary elements to meet those production requirements in the future.

I encourage DOE to proceed with all haste to roll out the GNEP facilities and technologies needed to ensure that future energy demands are satisfied safely and cleanly.

The Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce has long supported the location of the premiere nuclear energy laboratory in the nation. I believe without reservation that the site proposed in

eastern Idaho provides the best locations for the proposed GNEP facilities.

Not only is the region surrounding the proposed site well known for being the most supportive nuclear community for any DOE facility in the country, we also believe that Idaho has the most highly trained and experienced people in the nation for the GNEP operational and R&D facilities.

In addition to the unmatched support and expertise we have, Idaho's universities and colleges provide critical national leadership in training the next generation of nuclear energy experts. The recent ground breaking for the Center for Advanced Energy Studies is the newest element in our strong foundation for future energy studies in the communities surrounding the INL.

The location of all the GNEP facilities is in proximity to the CAES will provide an unparalleled outreach for new energy research and development for the United States and the world for throughout the years to come.

For these reasons, we are confident that GNEP will find its future in Idaho. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Our next speaker is Ralph Robison to be followed by Rocky Deschamps, Lee Staker, and Kathryn Kain.

RALPH ROBISON: Hi. My name is Ralph Robison. I'm a Madison County Commissioner. I am a fourth generation Madison County resident. My five siblings, parents, and their families also live here, along with two of my children, and grandchildren.

I support, along with many others, the location of the GNEP facility in southeast Idaho. This is the right location for this nuclear energy research facility. This technology would not only benefit Idaho, the United States, it will also have a tremendous impact globally.

We need to act now on this research so we along with our children, grandchildren, can benefit from this wise use of technology. The time is now for this research of technology to affect future generations.

I support the GNEP facility be located in southeast Idaho. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Okay. The next speaker would be Roger Deschamps -- I hope I pronounced that one correctly -- Lee Staker, Kathryn Kain, and then Roger Christensen. Please.

ROCKY DESCHAMPS: I'm going to try and break the record for the shortest being up here.

I'm Rocky Deschamps and I'm chairman of Bingham County Planning and Zoning Commission. I am speaking on behalf of myself. We didn't have a chance to get our board together to get a resolution together, but I feel I'm speaking for the majority of our members here.

We feel that southeast Idaho is a perfect location for this facility to be located in. As a member of the Planning and Zoning, I know that we have schools, we have the infrastructure, we have the roads, we're familiar with the base that has driven the INEL for so long, and INL is such an important part to it.

So we feel that we as citizens in southeast Idaho are aware of what's -- what this project will bring to us. We're aware that -- what needs to be, and we have the infrastructure in place. We have schools that are waiting and willing for additional students. We have colleges that have programs that are available to teach our youth to fill these jobs that are needed for this particular thing that we have before us.

So I think southeast Idaho, because of

our heritage with INEL, we are the place to have this facility. And I thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. The next speaker is Lee Staker to be followed by Kathryn Kain, Roger Christensen, and John Flinn.

LEE STAKER: Hi. I'm Lee Staker, Bonneville County Commissioner. I am also chairman of the board for Targhee Regional Public Transportation Authority, which in this last year has combined with CART to service the Upper Snake River Valley with public transportation in the city of Idaho Falls.

We look forward to having this opportunity to service the people of Idaho Falls and the eastern Idaho community and public transportation. We look forward to GNEP coming so that we can be here and help them in their efforts. We think it's very important that Idaho Falls be selected mainly because of the history that has been here.

I'd encourage your support for this and I thank you for it.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Our next speaker is Kathryn Kain, Roger Christensen, John Flinn, and Steve Headley.

KATHRYN KAIN: Good evening. I am Kathryn Kain. I am representing myself and my family. I am apparently the first non-government official to speak.

GNEP is not about how this will affect Idaho, but about how Idaho can affect the rest of the world. We have an opportunity to take part in something amazing. Millions of people do not have access to affordable and reliable energy. We can take part in changing that.

We can help reduce the need for the entire global community to burn fossil fuel. We can help reduce nuclear waste while producing safe energy. We can help reduce proliferation risk. We can do something for the world as a whole.

I hope you all want to help by taking part in GNEP. I know I do.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. You folks are getting good. The next speaker is Roger Christensen, and then John Flinn, Steve Headley, Representative Ann Rydalch.

ROGER CHRISTENSEN: Thank you. I'll be as brief as the previous. I'm Roger Christensen, chairman of the board of County Commissioners for Bonneville County. I'll summarize the letter that we

would like to submit.

As commissioners in the county adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear -- Idaho National Laboratory, we understand the important role that nuclear power can and will play in ensuring U.S. energy security, meeting the global demand for clean air, energy, and addressing the global climate change.

I told you I'd be brief. In summary, there is quite a bit in between that, but we will submit that. We trust that --

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: We appreciate that.

ROGER CHRISTENSEN: -- it will be part of the record.

Eastern Idaho recognizes that GNEP is key to the energy future of America and the world and we want to play our part. We hope that your efforts will result in approval and funding for this very important project.

Bonneville County was recently selected as one of the 100-best communities in the nation to raise young people. And I think you can see by the quality of the young people that we've had testify with Ian that it is a great place to raise young people.

I think that's important in attracting a good quality workforce, which we already have, but we can attract more. And we are strongly in support. And to be brief, Amen to everybody who spoke in support of this. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. The next is John Flinn, and Steve Headley, Ann Rydalch, and Brett Olaveson.

JOHN FLINN: My name is John Flinn. I am president of the INL Retired Employees Association, and I want to read a letter that we are submitting to Mr. Frazier.

These comments are on behalf of a group of individuals who can provide unique insights and to the Department of Energy's effort to select a location for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

Who are we? We are the retired engineers and scientists as well as the administrators, financial and technical employees from the Idaho National Laboratory and as predecessor entities. And we are here to endorse east Idaho as the site for the exciting new program.

As retirees, some of us have been present since the site had its beginning after World War II. Others remember the first use of nuclear

fissions to produce electricity at EBR-1 in 1951. All of us are proud of our work here over the years to promote safe, proliferation resistant nuclear energy.

We have supported our country's defense missions at past facilities such as the Idaho Chem Processing Plant as well as non-defense missions to promote the peaceful use of atomic energy. In 50 years of designing, building nuclear reactors, developing internationally recognized reactor safety codes, and reprocessing nuclear fuel, we have pioneered technologies that will be the building blocks of the GNEP process.

As pioneers, we have devoted our careers to nuclear research, development, production, reactor design, and operation, we provide our insight about GNEP and its goal of expanding nuclear power.

As nuclear pioneers, we take pride in the foundation we have laid for DOE to close the fuel cycle, recycle spent fuel, reduce proliferation, and build advanced burner reactors.

There is no better site for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership than the INL that has both required nuclear research infrastructure as well as workforce with the extensive knowledge of nuclear

energy processes.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds.

JOHN FLINN: We urge you to continue our legacy by choosing the INL as the site for those projects.

Sincerely yours, members of the INEL Retired Employees Association.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is Steve Headley, then Ann Rydalch, Brett Olaveson, Ron Lechelt.

STEVE HEADLEY: Thank you. My name is Steve Headley. I'm a current standing Bannock County Commissioner. I'd rather be at the Dodge National Final Rodeo tonight than here.

I enthusiastically support, give my support from my fellow county commissioners in eastern Idaho in support of their power. It will give us the answers that we need in eastern Idaho as to wages -- and jobs and wages.

I would welcome NEP -- GNEP to southeast Idaho if we are chosen. We need more energy than use of fossil fuels. I feel nuclear power is the answer. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is Ann Rydalch, and she'll be followed

by Brent Olaveson, Ron Lechelt, and Errol Covington.

ANN RYDALCH: Thank you. My name is Ann Rydalch and I chair the Energy Natural Resource and Agriculture Policy Committee for the National Foundation for Women Legislators. I have served seven years in the Idaho Senate and four years in the Idaho House of Representative.

NFWL is a non-profit 501c3 for sitting legislators and retired legislators. Much of the energy talk that has been here tonight has been discussed in our energy committee and nuclear energy has been embraced by numerous, numerous women legislators from across the nation.

The only question that anyone raised was what about storage of the waste and can someone figure out how to take care of that with technology? And now with Global Nuclear Energy Partnership that would continue building on the advances made in the energy policy after 2005, the waste storage becomes less of a problem. To me that is a peace of mind constituents are looking for.

We all remember the energy talks of the '70s. My opinion is that the oil and gas prices over recent years are a wake up call. Let's not go back to the '70's. We've come too far technologically to

do that. We had our chance in the '70s to continue developing the needed technology for nuclear energy, which included recycling but we gave up.

The rest of the world did not. Japan, France, Britain, and Russia are all now in the nuclear fuel recycling business. They kept trying to solve the problem.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Excuse me. I'm going to interrupt you for just one second. If people would like to talk outside, would you please take the conversation outside, please? Thank you. I'm sorry.

ANN RYDALCH: It's time for the United States to catch up and then take its place in the world as the nuclear energy leaders.

I believe the expertise that has been developed at the INL, as well as the advantage that it offers in location, facilities, and local support by the communities in the area, as well as our state should place it in the forefront of the GNEP endeavors and would be welcome in Idaho and at the INL.

Its location here would not have any adverse effect on Idaho policy in my opinion. Remember, if it's got use, it's not waste. That's

what recycling of used fuel is all about. That expertise is here. Let's not waste another decade or two but put these projects in Idaho. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Our next speaker is Brett Olaveson, then Ron Lechelt, Errol Covington, and then Bob Neilson. Is Mr. Olaveson here? No. Is Ron --

RON LECHELT: Right.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: -- Lechelt? And you'll have to help me on that name.

RON LECHELT: I'm Ron Lechelt. I was a legislature 30 years or so ago, and I'm speaking tonight as a retired pediatrician.

In 1959 we came to Idaho. And shortly after I came to town, I saw a child that had a heart murmur and I ordered a chest film. The father had the audacity to question me and question our equipment at the hospital. He went to the hospital and checked it to be sure the X-ray equipment would not give excess radiation, and I thought this is really above and beyond.

And I found over the years that the employees from the INL, the ATC at that time, were the type of people who really were very concerned about their children and about the community, and I

learned that they would not do anything that was going to harm their children by bringing things into our community that might be of any hazard, particularly in the nuclear field.

And so I just thought that the INL employees are not going to come in here and tell you how good they are, but I as a physician saw that they really were dedicated and I think they still are and I stand 100 percent behind this application. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Errol Covington, then Bob Neilson and Donna Benfield and Jack Barraclough.

ERROL COVINGTON: Good evening and thank you for this opportunity. I am Commissioner Errol Covington and this is Commissioner Cleone Jolley. We're representing Bingham County. Our Commission Chairman, Wayne Brower, had a previous engagement and was unable to be here, but he sends his endorsement of this proposal.

Bingham County adjoins INL and is situated to the south and is home to about 45,000 people, many of whom who are employed at the INL. We are united and strongly support the GNEP initiative. We believe that GNEP offers the best hope for a

clean, safe, abundant energy future for this country.

We just as strongly support the selection of one of the two locations identified here in Idaho as the best, most logical site for this facility. You might think that naturally we would hold that position because we live here, but we think that the facts provide a compelling reason for that conclusion.

Idaho has long been the location of the premiere nuclear laboratory in the nation. The regions surrounding the proposed site is well-known for being the most supportive nuclear community of any DOE facility in the country.

The remoteness and isolation from inhabited areas serve to enhance the desirability of the site. We believe that southeast Idaho has the most highly trained and experienced people possible in the nation for nuclear operations.

In addition, there exists a huge bank of scientists, engineers, and other degreed professionals in the area as you referred to tonight. Many retired from the INL who could be available for consultant work. This is the area and these are the people who developed the nuclear energy operational and safety codes that countries in the rest of the

world are using.

The INL has been excellent power and transportation resources. An extensive power grid is provided by three western states. The roads, railroads, and airlines are well established and provide excellent connections to the rest of the country.

Finally, Idaho's universities and colleges have provided outstanding support to the nuclear industry and are well positioned to respond to the challenge of training a new generation of nuclear experts.

Locating the GNEP facilities in close proximity to the New Center for Advanced Energy Studies will provide unparalleled opportunity for new energy research and development for the United States and the world throughout the years ahead.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

ERROL COVINGTON: We are confident that you will find Idaho to be the best location for the proposed GNEP facility.

Thank you, Bingham County Commissioners.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Bob Neilson, and then Donna

Benfield, Jack Barraclough, and Larry Lyon.

BOB NEILSON: My name is Bob Neilson. I manage the Renewable Energy and Power Department at the Idaho National Laboratory. However tonight I'm speaking as a private citizen.

The nation is in an energy crisis. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that electricity use in this country will increase by 45 percent by the year 2030. How are we going to provide this increased energy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

As much as I support renewable energy, it is not the solution to the nation's problems. Instead, it is part of the energy solution. Nuclear energy which provides base load power without the generation of carbon dioxide is another part of the solution.

I believe that the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership is important to the long-term deployment of nuclear energy. Reprocessing nuclear fuel both -- will both recover significant energy values since only a few percent of the U-235 fuel is actually used and all reduce the volume of the waste that must be sent to a geologic repository; thus making it easier to close a nuclear fuel cycle.

I also believe that eastern Idaho is an ideal location for GNEP facilities and support the Regional Development Alliance proposal. The presence of the Idaho National Laboratory with its infrastructure and expertise, as well as its long history in nuclear energy technology development and testing is a strong asset to GNEP and justification for locating GNEP facilities in eastern Idaho. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Next speaker, Donna Benfield, then Jack Barraclough, Larry Lyon, and Tim Solomon.

DONNA BENFIELD: This will the less than two minute speech.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you.

DONNA BENFIELD: Just on behalf of the Rexburg City Council, I'm the President of the Council and would like to reaffirm that the City Council stands behind this program in full support. I was up here representing Mayor Larson a moment ago, but I just want to reconfirm that the City Council is 100 percent behind them. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very much. The next speaker is Jack Barraclough, then Larry Lyon, Tim Solomon, and John Hoynup.

JACK BARRACLOUGH: I purchased a minute and a half from the last speaker.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Sorry. I'd love to make some money on this, but I can't do it.

JACK BARRACLOUGH: It's my privilege to be here tonight. As a certified professional hydrologist who has studied and reported on the geohydrologic aspects of INEL 58 years in Idaho, I strongly support the siting of GNEP facilities in Idaho.

GNEP is a dream come true for our energy future, to manage used nuclear fuel, and to present -- prevent the spread of weapon's materials. The United States is fortunate to have a variety of sources to produce electric; however nuclear must continue to be a major producer of energy.

In 1948, a commission studied 112 locations throughout the nation. They selected a large area west of Idaho Falls as their No. 1 site to test and develop peaceful uses of the atom. A total of 52 reactors and facilities were developed, the largest concentration anywhere in the world.

It was my job to evaluate the impact of INL on the water, the aquifer, land, and the air. The locations on INEL are remote with low seismic

activity, stable rocks, managed flood potential, permanent water supply, low earthquake potential with rail and highway access. The location qualities are still pertinent 60 years later. INEL has not had any wells go dry even during the recent drought conditions.

My career has spanned 35 years with the U.S. Geological Survey with 20 years as research project chief. I then failed retirement and spent 10 years with EG&G and Lockheed as a scientific specialist, and then failed retirement again and spent 14 years in the Idaho State Legislature.

I supervise the INEL studies on the aquifer, migration of radioactive waste and chemical waste in the aquifer, a predictive mathematical model 30 years ago of waste plumes and the first report in the country of the geohydrologic aspects of the burial of radioactive waste on INEL.

In addition to this, I served on committees and panels, not just visiting these sites, but actually going there and evaluating what they were doing at Hanford, Nevada Test Site, Los Alamos, WIPP Site, Oak Ridge, Savannah River, and Yucca Mountain.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds,

please.

JACK BARRACLOUGH: I've also evaluated all the radioactive waste burial sites in the U.S.

This experience gives me a chance to evaluate the selection of GNEP projects. And I strongly feel that this is where some of the projects should go.

The INEL's history of performance and capability is well documented. We can continue to be leaders in the nuclear development. Let's have the courage and wisdom to support GNEP. Thank you very much.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Larry Lyon, and then Tim Solomon, John Hoynup, and Gynii Gilliam.

LARRY LYON: I stand in support of GNEP. As an employee of the INL and a radiation safety professional for the last 18 years, I believe my professional position gives me a unique perspective. I believe that nuclear power is very safe and a very good option for the U.S.

I consider myself an environmentalist. For several years back east in New York and Upstate New York, I have put on my personal protective clothing across the radioactive barrier and worked to clean up neighborhoods in waste sites along the

Niagara River, and now I work here at the INL doing the same.

I believe the global -- there will definitely be a Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. The only question will be will the U.S. leave that partnership or will that Nuclear Energy Partnership be led by other nations who may or may not be friendly to the U.S. and our interest? Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: The next speaker is Tim Solomon and then John Hoynup, Gynii Gilliam, and then we'll take a short break.

TIM SOLOMON: Good evening. I am Tim Solomon. I'm Executive Director of the Regional Development Alliance. And, you know, I have a letter here from our board of directors; it's lengthy. The night is going to get long, so what I'm going to do is tell you how grateful as the applicant for this proposal that you've all showed up here tonight.

It is gratifying to see the number of people who have come out to voice your opinions. Thank you very much. It is a great place that we live in. We have phenomenal people who live here. It is gratifying to be a resident of this community. Thank you.

And I will submit this for the record.

But I do want to read very quickly the names of our board of directors. Blake G. Hall is the Chair. Seth Beal is the First Vice Chair. Lee Staker is the Second Vice Chair. Sean Larson, Mayor Larson from Rexburg, is the Secretary. Jared Furhiman, Mayor of Idaho Falls, who you've heard from a couple of times tonight, is the Treasurer.

Mark Stauffer, Commissioner from Butte County. Errol Covington, Commissioner from Bingham County. Bob Hanson, the Commissioner from Madison County. Steve Hadley, Commissioner from Bannock County. Ron Vassar, (phonetic) Commissioner from Jefferson County. Mike Virtue, the Mayor of the City of Blackfoot. Lynn Hensea, a Commissioner from Custer County. And finally Lee Bean from Bonneville County.

We strongly support this. Thank you for your support.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Next speaker is John Hoynup, and then Gynii Gilliam. Excuse me. Before you get started, in the back of the room, I've been listening continuously to chatter. If you're not interested in what's being spoken, I would ask you kindly to step out of the room so other people can listen. Thank you.

JOHN HOYNUP: I'm John Hoynup. I'm up here representing Southern Idaho Building and Construction Trades Council. I'd like to read a letter addressed to the Honorable Mr. Bodman.

Dear Sir, on behalf of the southeast Idaho Building and Construction Trades Council, I want to express our support for eastern Idaho as the site for any and all of the projects associated with the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

There are many reasons why our community is the best choice as the site for the Advanced Recycling Reactor, the Advanced Recycling Facility, and the Advanced Fuel Cycle Research Facility. Eastern Idaho is home to the INL, the lead laboratory for the Department of Energy's Nuclear Research and Development programs.

We have a long history of supporting the nuclear projects at the INL, both through working with new programs and the ongoing Idaho Clean-Up Project.

Just as important is the skilled workforce that includes not only scientists and engineers, but also building and construction trades professionals who have experience in all the aspects of safety and the skills required to work with

nuclear components and the construction and nuclear processing facilities.

Workers who build the kind of facilities that GNEP will require must be trained and qualified to the high standards set by DOE for new nuclear facility construction. We have the infrastructure for this training, as well as the trained workforce already available to provide the manpower required.

We understand the potential health, safety, and security hazards as well as the complex work control processes associated with nuclear construction from over 50 years of experience at the INL. We also recognize the value of safety teams and efforts such as Voluntary Protection Program.

Fortunately for DOE, this trained, productive, high quality, and experienced workforce can provide the labor needed to start the construction quickly and complete it without delays resulting from inadequate training, lack of safety knowledge, or poor work quality.

Our union is recognized that the Office of Nuclear Energy considers this new initiative vital to the U.S. energy security as well as national and global security. We are ready to support it and help to build the future in nuclear energy.

Respectfully, Willis Norton, President of the Southern Idaho Building and Construction Trades Council.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. And now the last speaker before the break. Is it Gynii Gilliam.

GYNII GILLIAM: It's Gynii. Good evening. I'm Gynii Gilliam. I'm the executive director for Bannock Development Corporation. I am representing a 25-member board from post -- representatives from the city, county, major utilities, banking industry, and the business sector of the Bannock County Region.

BBC strongly supports the GNEP initiative and the siting of the proposed facility in eastern Idaho because GNEP proposes our best hope for a safe and clean and abundant energy resource for the nation and the world and because GNEP will provide a most welcome socioeconomic impact to the region and the state, and also because GNEP reinforces the INL's goal to be the imminent nuclear research center for the nation.

We believe strongly that strengthening the Idaho National Laboratory's mission by supporting new missions and projects, such as this GNEP

initiative, is good not only for the State of Idaho, but for the nation and the world as well.

Finally, with the region's highly trained and experienced workforce, the newly formed Center for Advanced Energy Studies and the partnerships with their surrounding universities, the region is clearly and ideally well suited for the proposed GNEP facility. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. And I just want to express my appreciation. You folks have been terrific about moving right along and being respectful and I really appreciate that. Five minutes?

THE REPORTER: Yes.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: We'll take a five minute break.

Now, before you go -- before you go, I know that some of you will leave, I'm hoping that you will not, but if you do, I just want to tell you I very much appreciate you coming this evening and for listening and for those of you who have already spoken for making your comments.

We'll now break for five minutes. Thank you.

(Recess.)

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: I was remiss in not giving you the names of the people who would be speaking right after the break. I'll give them to you right now. First of all will be Cindy Smith-Putman, Brett Olaveson, who was out and is back, Greg Crockett, and Bruce Criswell. Are you ready? Our next speaker is Cindy Smith-Putman.

CINDY SMITH-PUTMAN: Thank you. I'm speaking tonight on behalf of eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center; one of the largest, private employers in our region. And because I want one of those gold stars for brevity that you mentioned, I'll limit my comments to those that I uniquely position to make and that is to offer a private sector perspective on GNEP.

As a representative of an organization who has no direct affiliation with or interest in the INL or any of its contractors, nor Energy Solutions and its members, my hospital whole heartily supports both the GNEP approach itself for reasons already so well articulated tonight and the siting of appropriate GNEP projects here in eastern Idaho.

The local men and women working in the nuclear field, the engineers and scientists, the administrators and allied professionals, the

technical employees and the trades are also our friends and our neighbors, and our community partners as good corporate citizens. They have the full faith and confidence as the rest of us in the business community as the best and most uniquely qualified experts to do GNEP's important work.

We, therefore, urge you to consider support of the larger business community, those of us that work beyond the site itself as a key factor influencing the Department of Energy's choice of Idaho as the best place to bring these important GNEP projects.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Okay. Our next speaker is Brett Olaveson, and Greg Crockett, Bruce Criswell, and Larry Ford.

BRETT OLAVESON: Thank you, and I welcome, like everybody else, the chairman and the members of the GNEP committee. My name is Brett Olaveson and I am a commissioner in Jefferson County, Idaho. Our county is located roughly eight miles to the north. We're neighbors of Bonneville County.

And we have some notoriety in our county in that it's the birth place -- we're known as the birth place for television. Vital T. Farnsworth attended Rigby High School. That's not why I'm here

tonight, though.

We have great neighbors to the south, Bonneville County. I've worked with them. We have great neighbors to the north, Madison County, who has just opened a four-year institution, a university there. They're thrilled with that, and the new technical capabilities that they are producing.

We also have great neighbors on the west. And those neighbors would be the INL DOE site. And we have worked collaboratively with them over the years on a number of projects. We've been extremely happy with the work that they've done, and the good neighbors that they have been.

In honor of Thomas Jefferson, who is the namesake, I guess, the inspiration for our county, the author of the Declaration of Independence, and the president of the United States, the third president, I quote, the good opinion of mankind like the lever of our committees with the given fulcrum moves the world.

I would offer tonight just a couple of items of opinion representing 23,000 citizens of our county. These were opinions that they had created in the comprehensive plan that was produced in April of 2005.

Page 6 of the comprehensive plan: There's a growing concern in the county about the unavailability of high paying technical jobs. Many of the labor force in Jefferson County that increase their skills are forced to move to another location to find employment.

Page 26, the Jefferson County per capita income is near the lowest in the State of Idaho ranging 42nd out of the 44 Idaho counties. This is an incentive for development of new jobs in the county in the future.

Page 28, one of the goals, the economic goals of the county, is to encourage economic growth that includes support of agricultural manufacturing and high-tech industries such as found at the INL site.

And then the county citizenry had three policy statements: Work with the INL to promote economic development in Jefferson County, develop and maintain communications with key INL management and contractors in order to monitor research developments, potential spin-off applications, and technology transfers.

And, finally, to work with local developers, builders, realtors, and INL to attract

INL employees to become county residents.

Mr. Chairman, we have in four years adopted a comprehensive plan, new zoning and subdivision ordinances, hired building inspectors, and built a new courthouse. We are thrilled with the things that are happening there. We are thrilled with our neighbors, the vast majority of whom are tied directly or indirectly to this good work.

And we hope that, to close my remarks, quoting Thomas Jefferson again, let us deserve well of our country by making her interests the end of all our plans.

And I hope that the members of your committee will -- these thoughts and goals will resonate with the members of your committee so that this area may continue to serve this great country and bring security and safety to the world.

And I thank you for your time.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. The next speaker is Greg Crockett, then Bruce Criswell, Larry Ford, and Michelle Holt.

GREG CROCKETT: Thank you. My name is Greg Crockett. I'm here on behalf of myself and my family. We represent three generations of Idaho Falls' residents, and are here to express our support

for the Idaho National Laboratory and congratulate the Lab on its clean and efficient operation in my neighborhood for 50-plus operating years.

I'm also here tonight to congratulate the Department of Energy on its GNEP initiative and express my total support for its missions and its goals. In my mind, it represents a return to logic in the management of nuclear energy fuels, and its related waste stream. I'm also in support of the GNEP mission and its projects in my neighborhood here in eastern Idaho.

I trust and rely upon the substantial history the Department of Energy has in eastern Idaho. I trust those people who are in charge of the GNEP mission and support, again, that happening here in my neighborhood whole heartily.

In 50-plus years of operations in eastern Idaho, I'm not sure there is any other site on the planet earth that has had more environmental profiling assessment. And quite frankly from an environmental standpoint, I would certainly invite whatever further assessment and profiling may be appropriate as long as we do that on the basis of sound science and engineering principles. And thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker would be Bruce Criswell, then Larry Ford, Michelle Holt, and John Skjei.

BRUCE CRISWELL: Thank you. My name is Bruce Criswell. I'm speaking as a private citizen and long-time member of the Idaho Falls community.

There is no doubt that there are a number of groups of people in this world who by controlling the availability of oil intend to restrict the many freedoms and adversely affect the quality of life that we, our children, and our grandchildren enjoy.

The American people do not have to nor will they tolerate this because of the availability of a safe nuclear energy alternative. As such, the question is not whether GNEP will become a reality, but rather where is the appropriate location for the research to be conducted.

The Idaho National Laboratory has a five-decade performance record of conducting nuclear research and reactor operations in a safe, efficient manner. There is no other place in the country, to my knowledge, that has a more experienced, dedicated, and motivated workforce to carry out this task.

This is a task of such significance for

the next generation of Americans that it must begin soon and be performed at a location where the expertise and capabilities are already in place.

I submit to you that the appropriate place is the Idaho National Laboratory. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Then it will be Larry Ford, and then Michelle Holt, John Skjei, and Cathy Koon.

LARRY FORD: I'm Larry Ford. I'm chief research officer at Idaho State University and am representing President Art Vailas, who was unable to be here tonight.

President Vailas' letter to Secretary Bodman: I am pleased to endorse the Department of Energy's GNEP initiative and to promote Idaho as the best location for housing GNEP facilities.

Adequate energy supply is today a defining issue in the world community. While conservation, renewables, biofuels, and other alternative energy sources will be important, nuclear energy must be a cornerstone in future energy supply.

In order for that to happen, we need to restore our country's leadership in nuclear power, see nuclear power plants ordered once again, and develop processes to reduce the waste stream by

making more efficient use of nuclear fuels.

While these domestic nuclear energy priorities are vital, it is clear that we must also work in an international dimension. Reliance on nuclear power is increasing around the world. By mid-century, both China and India, for example, intend to have in place at least two and a half times the number of nuclear plants in all of the U.S. today.

But the technologies will be implored around the world, especially in the nuclear fuel cycle, are not yet firmly set. The technologies and the institutions of nuclear power can dramatically affect world stability, and to understand this one need look no further today than the case in North Korea and Iran.

GNEP addresses both our domestic nuclear energy program in shaping of nuclear energy deployment internationally. Thus, the principals that guide the GNEP initiative such as regional fuel-cycle centers under international control, fuel guarantees to states which deploy reactors but which forgo sensitive fuel-cycle facilities and the like are, in my view, exactly right.

Much of this crucial GNEP initiative

depends on research and development. Therefore, the nation's strongest assets in nuclear research and development must be brought to bear.

The INL is the nation's lead lab for nuclear energy development and the only national laboratory under the Department of Energy's office of Nuclear Energy. If GNEP is to succeed, its development must be centered here at INL. Therefore, DOE must site major GNEP program elements and facilities in Idaho. Important as it is, this issue transcends that of jobs. In a very real sense, the nation's future is at stake.

Idaho State University will continue to do its part in this endeavor in support of DOE and the INL. Our Idaho Accelerator Center continues to work with DOE and the advanced fuel-cycle initiative and related programs on problems central to making GNEP successful.

Our Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering and College of Engineering have recently doubled our nuclear engineering faculty and all of these faculty members are working with INL scientists and engineers on INL nuclear programs.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

LARRY FORD: In collaboration with the University of Idaho and Boise State University and with the support of INL through the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, we are committed to making Idaho a world-class center of nuclear engineering, science, education, and research.

There is nothing more central to that effort than GNEP and nothing that makes more sense than locating GNEP facilities here in Idaho.

I also have a letter of support from BSU's President Kustra. I will forgo reading that, but state that they fully support this effort.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: All right. Thank you, sir. Before I call my next speaker, I've been told that Mr. Mark Wright has a message at the registration desk. If Mr. Wright is here, the registration desk.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tell him to come here. We have a ride for him.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: I'm glad you worked that out.

The next speaker is Michelle Holt. She'll be followed by John Skjei, Cathy Koon, and Teri Ehresman.

MICHELLE HOLT: I am Michelle Holt. I'm

the Executive Director for Lost River Economic Development. With me this evening is Mark Stauffer my board's president, and Chamber of Commerce -- Chamber of Commerce -- Butte County Commissioner.

We are here tonight speaking on behalf of Lost River Economic Development representing the communities of Butte and south Custer counties, and the Butte County and City of Mackay Chambers of Commerce.

For reasons made clear by numerous other speakers, we are here to submit a letter of support for the GNEP project of which I will read just a short excerpt.

Idaho and Butte County have long been host to the premiere Nuclear Energy Laboratory of the nation. Arco, one of the community's Lost River Economic Development represents, proudly boasts its status as the first city in the world to be lit by atomic power, and annually host their annual Atomic Day's community celebration in honor of that event.

Arco is home to the Idaho Science Center dedicated to memorializing the years of groundbreaking research in nuclear science that has taken place in the Arco Desert for decades.

For this reason Lost River Economic

Development, Butte County, south Custer County, Mackay and Butte County Chambers of Commerce support GNEP. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. All right. Our next speaker is John Skjei, Cathy Koon, Teri Ehresman, and John Grossenbacher.

JOHN SKJEI: Hi. My name John Skjei. I'm a member of the board of directors for the Arco/Butte County Business Incubation Center. And we want to express our strong support for GNEP. The BIC Board also strongly supports eastern Idaho as the site for any and all projects associated with GNEP.

As a representative for the Business Incubation and Economic Development in Butte County, the BIC Board has reviewed the GNEP information very closely. We believe the GNEP initiative is the right solution to meet the nation as well as global energy needs in a safe and reliable manner. We also believe that Idaho is the best site to meet the objectives of GNEP and provide our letter of support. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Cathy Koon is our next speaker, then Teri Ehresman, John Grossenbacher, and Dave Hill.

CATHY KOON: My name is Cathy Koon and I am the Fremont County Economic Development specialist

and I am here representing the Fremont County Commissioners, the St. Anthony and Ashton Chambers of Commerce and my office of Economic Development.

And I cannot possibly begin to present a case as well as so many people before me. I can tell you that Fremont County is a very rural community and .5 percent of the workforce from Fremont live -- works at the INL.

I'm here because I want on a more personal, local level to say that we trust the INL. It's only just a few months older than I am. I grew up with it. It's a part of our lives, but more than that, it's a part of our economy. We do depend heavily on the INL and the support of businesses and, therefore, I and those that I represent want to speak to the economic development and we ask that the powers that be, look at Idaho as the site for the GNEP initiative, which we very strongly support. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: The next is speaker is Teri Ehresman, then John Grossenbacher, Dave Hill, and Bruce Angle.

TERI EHRESMAN: My name is Teri Ehresman. I am the chair for the INL Employees Association, the employees working at the laboratory

right now. We have over 50 years of experience in nuclear energy research and development work.

We have the infrastructure. We have the outstanding leadership. We have the expertise, and just as important, if not more important, we have the safety culture at the laboratory. Safety is very important to us. We want to do it right the first time.

GNEP is very important to the INL, to Idaho, and to the nation and the world. It is a very important part of our energy solutions for the future, for our parents, for our families, and our grandchildren. You will find unmatched support at the Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho and we want it in Idaho. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is John Grossenbacher to be followed by Dave Hill, Bruce Angle, and Ray Grosshans.

JOHN GROSSENBACHER: My name is John Grossenbacher. I'm the director of the Idaho National Laboratory, and it's my privilege to represent the 3,600 scientists, engineers, skilled technicians, and support personnel that are the heart and sole of the capability of the laboratory.

On behalf of them, it's a privilege for

me to say to this group how much I appreciate your participation in the process. I think it's important as citizens and leaders of our community. And from the standpoint of the Laboratory, the statements of support and your trust and confidence in the people of the Laboratory is significant. It's very important to us. It's something that we do not take for granted. I assure you. And we take it very, very personally and very seriously.

I'm here tonight to offer some comments as a private citizen. First, the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the GNEP program is appropriate given the breadth and the boldness of the GNEP initiative. GNEP is a proposal for the United States to lead a global expansion in the use of nuclear energy while reducing the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation and the challenges associated with managing the end-product waste from the nuclear fuel cycle.

This is a serious and important undertaking with scientific engineering and political dimensions. It's also long overdue.

Worldwide energy demands are increasing and nuclear energy must be a substantial part of our nation's and the world's portfolio of energy sources

in order to meet that demand. To be sure energy conservation, clean coal, hydro, renewable sources like wind, solar, biofuels, and others have a place in that portfolio.

A portfolio that must evolve in order to meet demands, the availability of resources, resource limitations, the technological state of the art, and the impact on climate change. However, given its relative costs, its environmental impacts and risks and benefits nuclear energy must be an important and increasing component of any realistic national and international energy portfolio.

Second, this community, my community, has substantial experience with nuclear energy-related technology. As evidenced by the participation interests and comments of my community leaders and fellow citizens here tonight, I think it's clear that Idaho and eastern Idaho are knowledgeable, informed and supportive.

Supportive of and interested in doing what is right for our environment, what is right for our nation's energy security, what is right for our national security, and what is right for our industrial competitiveness.

I am pleased and proud to be a member of

such a community. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. We now have Dave Hill, then Bruce Angle, the Ray Grosshans, and Bill Robertson.

DAVE HILL: Good evening. My name is Dave Hill. I'm the deputy director for Science and Technology at Idaho National Lab. But here I'm speaking strictly as a private citizen, a member of the Idaho Falls' community, one I'm very proud to be a member of, and somebody who has devoted their whole career to energy research in one form or another.

I hold the opinion that GNEP, Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, is the single most important thing we can invest our efforts in now in this country to help secure an energy future for this country and for the world.

The partnership will help make nuclear energy a sustainable resource by recycling used fuel, be able to put together a real and significant energy source that otherwise will be wasted.

Now we're here to address the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; that is to say the potential siting of facilities here in Idaho. These facilities include the Advanced Recycling Facility, an Advanced Recycling Reactor,

and a Research and Development Facility for advanced fuels and fuel processing.

The Idaho National Lab is leading the research effort in support of GNEP. And in particular, developing the Advanced Fuel Cycle Facility, which will be the core and key research capability for the future and will truly make Idaho National Lab the preeminent nuclear R&D establishment.

And while I support whole heartily the development of the first two facilities, the recycling facility, and the recycling reactor, of particular importance for us and for the long-term future of nuclear R&D in this community, I'm especially interested in seeing the Advanced Fuel Cycle and Research Facility developed here.

This initiative, the GNEP initiative, can make a real difference. And siting it here in Idaho is important for you, for us, and for the world.

So, again, I devoted my career to this. I am delighted to see the level of community support, and I encourage DOE to site all of those facilities here. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our

next speaker is Bruce Angle, and he will be followed by Ray Grosshans, Bill Robertson, and Steve Laflin.

BRUCE ANGLE: My name is Bruce Angle. I'm a long-term INL employee and an Idaho Falls resident. I'm speaking tonight as a private citizen.

I support and urge others to support the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership because it's an important element in achieving U.S. and global energy security, reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation, and reducing dependence on carbon-based fuels with their resulting greenhouse gases.

I support GNEP facilities in Idaho because I believe Idaho and the Idaho National Laboratory in particular has the experience and expertise to manage such a program from design through ultimate disposition safely and in a way that protects the environment.

Finally, I support GNEP and Idaho because Idaho has the strong government leadership needed to provide oversight of such a complex program and assure the protection of Idaho citizens and the environment.

I urge that locating the GNEP facilities in Idaho be fully and fairly evaluated for the PEIS. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. The next speaker will be Ray Grosshans, and he would be followed by Bill Robertson, and Steve Laflin, and Mark Young.

RAY GROSSHANS: Good evening. I'm Ray Grosshans. I'm an employee of the Idaho National Lab where I work in the Center for Advanced Energy Studies; however, tonight I'm speaking as a private citizen.

From an environmental perspective, GNEP is essential to provide clean, economical energy free from greenhouse gases with an advanced technology that is inherently safe and that reduces proliferation risks and that transforms problematic waste in future fuel.

Furthermore, through GNEP, the U.S. will secure its leadership in promoting the energy security of the world and will lead in advising global climate change. Finally, Idaho Falls is uniquely situated to host all three elements of GNEP based on its geography, community support, the INL scientific workforce, and the Lab's long history of safely and securely managing nuclear energy research. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very

much. Bill Robertson, and he'd be followed by Steve Laflin, Mark Young, and Josh Wheeler.

BILL ROBERTSON: Good evening. My name is Bill Robertson and as president of eastern Idaho Technical College that I speak in support of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and recommend eastern Idaho as the designated site for this critical enterprise.

GNEP research represents an opportunity that will ultimately result in worldwide adoption of efficient and safe nuclear power applications. Since the establishment of the INL in 1949, eastern Idaho has provided continuous support of nuclear research and associated Department of Energy projects.

The long history of nuclear research in this region coupled with the well educated workforce presently assembled will provide a strong base and infrastructure of the back drop to the demand that will be required for successful implementation of GNEP.

The strong regional higher education presence will also be available in support of GNEP research and workforce development. Three state universities and a state technical college are all committed to offering the respective programs and

expertise as the project may require.

The state universities and college have a significant history in supporting INL education and are presently engaged in the same. Their services will continue to be available to support GNEP demands in the future. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: The next speaker is Steve Laflin, and then Mark Young, and Josh Wheeler, and Jim Lake.

STEVE LAFLIN: Good evening. My name is Steve Laflin. I'm the current president of the Partnership for Science and Technology.

The partnership is comprised of 100s of individuals and members from the trade unions, from businesses, and municipalities throughout the State of Idaho. We're a nonprofit, grassroots organization formed for accurate and timely information on existing and proposed activities at the Idaho National Lab and to advocate for those technologies and decisions that are in the public interest.

My comments tonight are on behalf of our members but also as the CEO of International Isotopes and to help physicists. I also understand the principles of the GNEP program and what GNEP can offer in terms of energy, security, and environmental

protection.

First I'd like to thank the Department of Energy for conducting this scoping meeting in Idaho. Since '48, Idaho has vigorously supported nuclear research at the Lab and a previously recent study was noted from Boise State that reflected that over 77 percent of the citizens in the communities surrounding the INL support nuclear research at the Lab.

We believe that the citizens that make up the communities surrounding this laboratory should lead the discussion on which projects or research initiatives are appropriate for this laboratory.

It's clear that energy demands of the planet will outstrip our ability to produce it and that nuclear power is the only viable, environmentally-friendly alternative to fill that gap.

GNEP's critically important to global security for the rebirth of nuclear power. And the U.S. needs to lead that GNEP effort. In turn, Idaho's the right place to lead the U.S. work on GNEP.

Idaho unequivocally provides the best location for the GNEP facilities. Not only do we

strongly support the Office of Nuclear Energy Research Mission in Idaho, we also have the most highly trained and experienced nuclear energy professionals in the country.

Idaho also offers the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, which is a critical level of a new, strong foundation for future energy studies in east Idaho. Also -- we also support the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership's strategic plan which calls for an international partnership in laboratories to accomplish the GNEP vision.

In addition to its excellent technical capability and educational capabilities, INL is one of the only laboratories that has established an international partnership with the United Kingdom, which provides yet another reason for selecting Idaho as the right location to the GNEP facilities.

In conclusion, GNEP provides an opportunity for the U.S. to reclaim a leadership role in the global nuclear energy industry. As a nation, we're falling behind, and we no long have the luxury of simply saying no to nuclear power.

GNEP is the right approach and Idaho's the right place for it. We'll continue to advocate for the GNEP program and ask our Congressional

delegation and all the members of Congress to do the same.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mark Young, and following Mr. Young will be Josh Wheeler, Jim Lake, and Kent Just.

MARK YOUNG: Thank you. My name is Mark Young. I'm here tonight as a citizen and I am very pleased and honored to be able to be part of this process.

For me this process began a good number of years ago as a citizen involved in the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development in our community. Having the opportunity to go to, not only our community here, but to Boise, Washington D.C., and the United Kingdom to represent our community and our site about the technological expertise that we bring to the world in solving nuclear engineering problems.

I can tell you that with all confidence, the people of the world and people of our country look to this community for leadership on this subject. I can tell you with all confidence that the people in this community are leading with this type of investment represented by the GNEP.

This capital of investment that our

country is making I fully endorse. This capital investment that's coming hopefully to our community we will welcome with open arms; you have seen the kind of endorsement and support that is evident in our town.

I can tell you without question, that we have concerns. We have concerns that this won't happen. We have concerns that this won't go forward. We stand ready and willing to make this happen. It's necessary for the future of our country. Idaho Falls, the INL is the partnership that you have had that's brought success to this state so far. To go to the next level, GNEP should come to Idaho Falls. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Josh Wheeler. Is Mr. Wheeler here? If not, Jim Lake. Following Mr. Lake would be Kent Just, Laurence Gebhardt, and Dave Petti.

JIM LAKE: Thank you. My name is Jim Lake and I'm speaking this evening as a former president of the American Nuclear Society.

I'd like to read a statement from the ANS in support of GNEP. And I quote, this statement is being made on behalf of the American Nuclear Society. As a non-profit membership organization,

the American Nuclear Society represents more than 10,500 engineers, scientists, educators, and other nuclear professionals.

Our members volunteer their time and talents in the use, research and development of nuclear science and technology to improve our day-to-day lives.

ANS serves as a resource for scientific, technological, and policy issues. The society's position is one of support for responsible, global expansion of peaceful nuclear energy. Because of environment advantages, nuclear energy is being considered around the world by policy makers as a component in their national energy portfolio.

A nuclear fuel cycle that enhances energy security and sustainability while promoting non-proliferation must be created. These actions are envisioned by the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Program.

In the U.S., nuclear power already provides more than 20 percent of our nation's electricity. Building nuclear research and recycling facilities makes sense as we prepare to make nuclear one cornerstone of our secure energy future.

The society also supports GNEP's

international initiatives that address proliferation by ensuring the U.S. would work with partnering nations to develop proliferation-resistant recycling technologies and then supply fuel services to those nations that refrain from making their own fuel. We think that such assurances can help reduce the spread of sensitive nuclear technologies.

Implementing GNEP and building an Advanced Fuel Cycle Research Facility, a Nuclear Fuel Recycling Center, and an Advanced Recycling Reactor in an era of expanded nuclear deployment will enhance our resource utilization, our radioactive waste management, and safeguards around the world.

This is signed by Harry A. Bradley, Executive Director of the American Nuclear Society. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is Kent Just, and then Laurence Gebhardt, Dave Petti, and Jon Carmack.

KENT JUST: Thank you very much and good evening. I'm billed as the world's oldest living chamber exec and most of you know that.

Thirty years ago, I was the exec here in Twin Falls. I now represent the Idaho Chamber Alliance. Why are we here 30 years after the fact

that we should have been going? That's -- that's -- that's what's kind of disturbing.

With me tonight are two of the members of our board of the Idaho Chamber Alliance. We represent over 20 Chambers of Commerce throughout the state. Let me just read them off to you: Blackfoot, Boise, Caldwell, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Eagle, Garden City, Gem County, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Kuna, Lewiston, Meridian, Moscow, Nampa, Pocatello, Rathdrum, Rexburg, Sandpoint, Sun Valley/Ketchum and Twin Falls.

That's the most important thing I can tell you tonight because you've heard the message. I can tell you that this message is ringing state wide. And it isn't just an east Idaho project. It's importantly an east Idaho project, but you've got support across the State of Idaho from 11,000 business community members who belong to this association who say, yes, let's move ahead with GNEP. Let's make it happen in Idaho any or all of it, and let's do it as quickly as we can, and let's not let another 30 years pass before we start solving the electrical energy needs of the nation.

Rob and Matt are here from Pocatello and, well, from Idaho Falls and Pocatello. You're

going to have a presentation later. Matt --

MATT: I just have a letter to present.

KENT JUST: All right. And a letter to present.

So, anyway, we're aligned here. Donna didn't want to come back up. She's been here twice. She said they won't want me anymore. But, anyhow, they're with us and we're supportive and very glad to be here.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. The next is Laurence Gebhardt. Before he starts, I just want to acknowledge that Doug Martin was here and he chose to leave, but he did leave a letter for the court reporter.

After Mr. Gebhardt will be David Petti, Jon Carmack, John Bach.

LAURENCE GEBHARDT: My name is Laurence Gebhardt. I am a retired U.S. Navy Captain and an Idaho member of the U.S. Submarine Veteran's Organization. I work in the U.S. ship building and repair industry.

I strongly recommend that GNEP choose eastern Idaho sites. I, and my Navy colleagues, have spent many years operating and maintaining naval nuclear reactors on submarine carriers and at the

Idaho National Laboratory site.

Our Navy would be much different without reactors. Nuclear reactors can be designed to be safe and reliable during normal and adverse conditions when operated by bright and high integrity people.

More public education about reactors and fuel recycling is needed. The comprehensive PEIS scope will help this learning. Idaho people who understand and respect nuclear power can assist GNEP to gain public acceptance, obtain permitting and work with our higher and technical education organizations and government to develop a great workforce and a supporting infrastructure.

GNEP's choice of eastern Idaho sites will accelerate the path toward energy independence and a cleaner, safer environment.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. The next speaker is David Petti to be followed by Jon Carmack, John Bach and Kipp Hicks.

DAVID PETTI: My name is David Petti. I'm a laboratory fellow at the INL, but I'm here representing myself tonight.

I support GNEP because of a closed and nuclear fuel project that will reduce the global

nuclear proliferation risk and it will harness the full potential of nuclear power -- a free way to generate electricity. It also, I think most importantly, will provide energy security for our children and grandchildren.

INL is the right place for the GNEP facilities. We have a proven safety record. We have built and operated very similar facilities to the ones being discussed in the GNEP project, and we have a motivated workforce to get the job done.

GNEP is the right answer to a difficult global problem. What better place to pursue GNEP than the place where the first nuclear reactor was built and nuclear power was born, the INL. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. There will be Jon Carmack, and then he will be followed by John Bach, Kipp Hicks, and Mark White.

JON CARMACK: Good evening. I'm John Carmack and I work in the GNEP Transuranic Fuel Development Program that takes place here at the INL currently today, and the research and development arm of GNEP.

But I thought about what I could contribute to this discussion for your consideration

of the INL as a site for some of the GNEP facilities. And as a private citizen, I've had an opportunity in the work that I've done over the last year to tour and visit some of the similar facilities that you can see around the world in France and Japan.

I've been in and around, I've worked with the people there in those facilities. I also have had the opportunity and privilege to work with a good portion of the people here at the INL that staff the many nuclear facilities that are available here today. And I can attest that the work that they do here is not just, you know, good in Idaho and world class -- it's world class in the vein of the world today. The work that's done here at the INL today is on par with the work that's done around the world.

Along those same lines I'd like to tell you about a little bit different subject and that's my son Jack. And Jack turns nine next month. And in Jack's lifetime he's seen the price of gas double. And I think that by the time Jack enters college in the next 10 years, Jack will see and be lucky to remember what a gas combustion engine looks like and he will be driving electric cars.

Jack has also tested in the highly gifted programs of some of the -- in the school

systems of Idaho. And as such, it's attestable that he's much smarter than I am. But when Jack leaves school, I think what he will see is that he wants to live and work in Idaho. And I think that if we can have facilities available for him in Idaho, he will be the person to actually staff and run those facilities in the future. So I think what you see is a world-class staff today with possible world-class staff of the future.

And so with that, I think I'll close and give you my paper.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Okay. Thank you, sir. John Bach, and then it will be Kipp Hicks, Mark White, and Nathan Zohner.

JOHN BACH: Thank you. Good evening. Thank you for your patience and thank you for being here. I'm not a cheerleader. As Einstein said, I'm not a horse made for tandem harvest. I question everything and I analyze everything.

And I'm here to tell you that what the focus was tonight was for Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, not whether the site was a good idea or should be in Idaho, but how does it affect the surrounding counties.

And I have to say that I think the

organizers failed to put publication in the Teton Valley News, or the Jackson Hole Daily, or the Jackson Hole Daily Guide. You disfranchised over 8,000 people coming here tonight to express their viewpoint.

I live in north Tetonia. I'm about three quarters of a mile from the Wyoming border. I look right up at Grand Targhee and the four peaks. I'm 69 years old. I'm not concerned about money; I'm concerned about health. I'm concerned about my children and my grandchildren. I like the aesthetics. I have investments in Teton Targhee Emporium, Inc., that is developing land recreational and otherwise.

We have a boom in Teton County and we have now over 6,000 lots on the market. We have Huntsman's Springs. We have Blackfoot Farm. We have River Rim Ranch. We have 15 golf courses under construction. And what have we been presented as to the fallout, the emissions, the toxification of radiation? Nada, nothing.

So I'm here to tell you that besides the disenfranchisement under the Clean Air Act, of which I'm familiar, I won't tell you why and you don't have to believe me, but I'm a Californian. I've worked

with Cal Tech Jet Propulsion MIT in regards to business matters and litigation.

And to tell you right now, they are just as capable individuals as the good people here in Idaho, but this is not a place for this.

And interesting enough, if you looked at your dispersal sheets, President Bush has not funded this initiative. I don't even know, nor do you, nor can they tell you who are the partnerships. When I form a partnership, I want to shake hands with that person. I want them signed to an agreement. I want to know whether he's a good person, is a good nation, if he's going to be an ally, or if he's going to be an enemy. And I'm not going on the take or on the hope.

And so 270 million dollars has to be appropriated in this year's budget by Congress. Do you think that's going to happen with the Iraqi war? Good luck.

Teton Valley, not only Idaho but also Wyoming, has become democratic. And those people do not want any kind of proliferation, or emissions, or radiation, or any toxicity whatsoever.

So I can't make an intelligent decision, which I hope I can continue to do so at my burdening

age and sort of enfeebleness, but I still have a sharp mind as all of you do. I still have respect for everyone and also the enjoyment of the aesthetics, the recreational and the outdoor. I still ride horses.

And I notice that in the release here 30 to 40 percent is of wind power and geothermal power. Have any of the people here gone to Ultimate Pass in California and seen how many windmills there are there? How much power they're generating without proliferation of any emissions called by the Clean Air Act?

Have they gone to Lassen County, Plumas County, Siskiyou County to find out the geothermal energy that is in Northern California? It's in Idaho. We have two wells on the west side of Teton Valley, Idaho that have over 120 degree temperature, Fahrenheit, and they've been capped.

So we have a lot of really investigation and analysis to do. And I don't see how or when tonight there was ever one that addressed the environmental impact requirement. It's not Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. It's problematic, and that's the problem with this presentation.

You may not like to hear what I have to say, and you may not agree with me. That's fine. But I'll tell you, the future of Idaho is not in nuclear power. It's in people power. It's in recreation. It's the goodness and quality of the outdoors of the aesthetic value that's incorporated in every planning in zoning ordinance by your legislature.

Geez, if you want power, put a windmill on top of the capital building. Boy, you'll generate enough to run at least 500 homes on 1200 square feet or better.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

JOHN BACH: If you have wind power, and I'm not going to say from what source, of six to eight nautical miles per hour, you can generate it. Come on people. Think about it. Thank you.

By the way, I don't believe that this should go through, and I've got a letter to explain it further that I'll give to the court reporter. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker will be Kipp Hicks to be followed by Mark White, Nathan Zohner and Samuel Bays.

GREG CROCKETT: Kipp Hicks has been called away to address a family situation. My name is Greg Crockett. I'm proud to represent my community as a member of an organization known as Grow Idaho Falls, incorporated in Idaho, a non-profit corporation for which Mr. Hicks serves as the executive director.

For the record, I would like to read in his letter as follows: To Mr. Frazier: Grow Idaho Falls, Inc., has the economic development as you can see representing Bonneville County, Idaho is in total support of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, GNEP, and we feel that eastern Idaho, and this community, is the right fit for this initiative.

The key strategic vision for the Idaho National Laboratory is to be the lead contributor to the nation's energy security and the environmental quality -- by developing -- environmental quality by developing advanced safe and economical nuclear energy and the nuclear fuel recycle technologies.

The existing knowledge base at the INL with the development of over 50 different reactors throughout the history of our site, our remote location in Idaho, and INL's exemplary experience is an ideal match for the initiative and the proposed

facilities to carry out its mission.

We know nuclear energy will, a simple necessity, become the greater contributor to our future energy needs. As the pro-nuclear community that neighbors the INL, and which has a rich history of support for past efforts, we stand behind the opportunities presented to the GNEP program.

Rest assured that the decision to locate the proposed GNEP initiative in Idaho will be the right choice for the Department of Energy.

Kind regards, Kipp Hicks, Executive Director. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. The next speaker is Mark White. Is Mr. White here? If not, Nathan Zohner. Samuel Bays. Okay. You'll be next, and then Mike Hart, Dr. Peter Rickards, and Diana Shipley.

SAMUEL BAYS: Hello. My name is Samuel Bays and I'm a doctoral student on a graduate fellowship at INL. The last two years I've worked side-by-side with first and second generation nuclear professionals. Some of which whose parents began and nurtured the technology to its modern maturity. One of which a friend of mine is fulfilling his same job description office and lab coat hook that his father

had previously.

These individuals' integrity and hard work has given the site, the INL, a representation for the place where ideas on paper become the nuclear technologies of reality. This is what draws a high level expertise work in Idaho. It's what drew me to Idaho. It is an honor to be part of their family and this community. Thank you very much.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker will be Mike Hart and then Peter Rickards, Diana Shipley, Beatrice Brailsford.

MIKE HART: My name is Mike Hart and I'm here as a parent and as a private citizen.

My son recently caught a high school teacher complaining about how teenagers just aren't responsible. And my son's response was, yeah, we're not responsible for global warming, nuclear waste, or Middle East Wars. The only thing that's worse than a sarcastic teenage is one who's making a really good point. And teenagers aren't responsible for these problems or their solutions. We are.

So what can I do about it? As an individual, I'm not here as a resident of Idaho Falls, or a citizen of the United States. I'm really here as a global citizen, and I'm following the adage

think globally, act locally.

I can either continue the tradition of passing on things like nuclear waste, and global warming to my future children and other generations, or I can do something about it here, right now, here in River City.

The GNEP proposal in my mind is something that is worthy of proposal. It represents taking responsibility for this problem now rather than putting it off to future generations, and taking responsibility for doing responsible research.

We can either wait for somebody else to come up with a solution. We can pass it off on future generations, or we can do something about it. The reson detra (phonetic) of Idaho National Lab is basically to develop technical solutions for national and particularly nuclear energy. They've been given that charge by the Department of Energy, they have the infrastructure. I believe they have the expertise and the intelligence to pull this off.

I would even argue that they have the existential responsibility. They created nuclear energy here. They created, to a degree, nuclear energy and nuclear waste. To the extent that there's an open fuel cycle that's still out there that needs

to be resolved, somebody has to close that fuel cycle. I think INL has a responsibility, not like a teenager, to actually do something and finish the job they started.

I also think it's important to recognize as a global citizen -- whether you like nuclear energy or not, even if I like wind power, I like alternative energy whether it be putting a flex fuel engine in my Volkswagen Van because I support alternative.

But China, India are not ordering wind power systems. They are not ordering solar power. They are ordering nuclear power plants. We have to be aware of that and that we're either going to be a part of the solution in helping that technology advance, or we sit at the side lines.

And I think this national lab has a lot of brain power and our country has a lot of brain power and I'd rather offer the world our brains more than our bombs. So I think that's an important reason.

I think also the economics of China and India, once, again, to paraphrase a singer Gil Scott Heron, they used to be in the Third World. They have bought the Second World and placed a firm down

payment on the First one. They are advancing.

And the reality is if the six billion people on the planet have our standard of living, the standard of living of people in this room tonight, that's 10,000 kilowatt hours a year annually. So we don't have enough energy to supply that. They're turning to nuclear and other sources, but I think it's important that we have the technology to make that more responsible energy.

Apart from the world getting wealthier, I think they're also -- it's also getting warmer. Global climate change is a reality. Glacier National Park used to have 160 glaciers in 1910 when it was founded. It's now down to 30. I don't want to see Glacier -- I don't mind the National Lab here in Idaho being renamed, but I don't want to name Glacier National Park something like a wasteland or former "A Wonderful Place Where Glaciers Used To Be," but now is a testament to the irresponsibility of my generation.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

MIKE HART: So with that, I just think advancing nuclear energy, and advancing and closing the nuclear fuel cycle here at the National Lab is a

responsible thing to do. I'm skeptical of nuclear power. I'm skeptical of all power. I also want to speak on behalf of the squirrels of Kate Curley Park, they are against Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and all electricity. They don't like electricity, anyway.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. The next speaker is Dr. Peter Rickards, and then he'll be followed by Diana Shipley, Beatrice Brailsford, and Katherine Daly.

PETER RICKARDS: Hi everybody. I'm Peter Rickards, a podiatrist from Twin Falls, Idaho. So nice to see so many people out here tonight. I know some of us have talked before and I know there must be some new people here, so I do want to remind folks that I provided a lot of technical information. I brought 25 copies of which you all can please e-mail me or contact me. I'll be glad to send you the rest of the information.

But to date, I have entered technical questions into the scoping hearings of many Environmental Impact Statements and they have not been answered. This is not good science. We went through this with the HEPA filter problems that I've documented that the National Academy of Science

understands but INL still refuses to do.

You will see a paragraph in their Environment Impact Statement about HEPA filters and they'll say that they follow all the regulations and that is the state of the art at the moment. But the problem is is that plutonium particles have the ability and all alpha emitters to knock themselves off the filters and go back with the air current through as many filters as you put up.

The McDow study, I quote from the 1970s from Oak Ridge, and he put up 40 filters in a row, and they came out at a much higher rate than you are legally allowed to do. There is plutonium-238 isotopes in the spent fuel when you get to the reprocessing aspect of this, which is what you're being asked to do.

You will be relying -- and your family's health will be relying, and every pregnant woman will be relying on the efficiencies of these filters. And I have shown that they are not able to contain plutonium at the rate you state and that has to date not been discussed by anybody in any Environmental Impact Statement.

Basically we've heard tonight many appeals to stop global warming. We are in agreement

on that. Senator Craig sent out this letter about GNEP. It's been repeated in the Impact Statement that we have no other option for emission free energy besides this project. That is probably not true.

I also want to remind new folks that I have an open challenge out since 1988 to debate any number of the scientists here at INL in front of your own crowds, and they have refused. They have backed out of radio shows on conservative radio because I document what I say. And I can speak from my heart about it and show you the documents and they're true.

So basically here and part of my testimony was from the Energy and Geoscience Institute of the University of Utah. These folks are good people. They talked about the geothermal potential in our nation, could provide five times the 1990 U.S. electric consumption, five times that. There's other statistics similar to that for world consumption.

Now, one of the ones I brought was from Stanford University talking if one captured one thirtieth of the viable wind power in the country, it would provide the present electrical consumption.

Now, another one of the provable lies in

the statement that Senator Craig makes and the INL makes is that this is the only emission free possibility to go for hydrogen fuel cells. Any electric source can make hydrogen fuel cells. The wind doesn't blow all the time for sure, but you can easily make hydrogen fuel cells from excess windy days to use in cars and use anywhere else. This is the clean energy.

Geothermal is fantastic. It doesn't even kill a bird. It is renewable. You pump back the water. It's innocuous. What you have with nuclear power and what they're proposing here is a cluster, not just one commercial nuclear power plant but multiple ones.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

PETER RICKARDS: And the -- do you get twice the time for traveling twice as far?

But basically this is a terrorist threat. Anybody can go crazy. There was an INL security guard that locked himself in a barricaded area to celebrate New Years. Stress happens to everybody. Geothermal workers, podiatrists, we can only hurt one person at a time when we go nuts.

What we have here is the future of our

country at stake. We have proof that we can go clean and green and stop global warming without nuclear power and without creating more nuclear waste that's buried over the water or a terrorist strike on your community.

And I want to leave with the thoughts that our kids are the safe -- and we need to think a lot clearer passed the lies here. I look forward to any debate or any information from you all. My e-mail, if you have a pen handy, nifty1 at cableone.net, N-I-F-T-Y-1 at c-a-b-l-e-o-n-e.net. Thanks again for listening.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Okay. Thank you. And the next speaker is Diana Shipley and she'd be followed by Beatrice Brailsford, Katherine Daly, and Margo Proksa.

DIANA SHIPLEY: Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about GNEP. This is a very important issue the DOE is proposing. I'm a bit distressed that the DOE is changing the language of reprocessing to recycling making it sound like something it's not.

The GNEP proposal violates the 1995 Settlement Agreement the State of Idaho has with the federal government. They have yet to clean-up the

existing mess at INL. No doubt there are amazing and intelligent individuals at the INL and the money that they would be spending for the GNEP would be more well spent on clean-up before generating more waste.

Speaking of money, if energy is really the focus of an energy partnership, why isn't solar energy being explored, or wind power? Both are more environmentally friendly and very effective as energy sources.

As an Idahoan, I'm against generating nuclear waste around the world and hauling it back to Idaho. It is dangerous and extremely costly. After decades of nonproliferation work, why would the DOE be willing to reverse the process and reintroduce the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel?

It is a huge drain on our water supply? It would require enormous amounts of money also, which would be better spent exploring other energy sources and clean-up. I would be more impressed with the DOE if they would really focus on energy instead of the nuclear industry as a business.

I am opposed to the GNEP proposal. Thank you very much. And I'm also submitting -- and I also didn't say -- I'm sorry -- my name is Diana Shipley and I'm from Pocatello, Idaho. I'm a teacher

and a parent. And I am also submitting a letter from Kaye Turner from Idaho -- from Pocatello. Thank you so much.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very much. The next person is Beatrice Brailsford and following her would be Katherine Daly, Margo Proksa, and Jeannie Winter.

BEATRICE BRAILSFORD: Thank you. My name is Beatrice Brailsford. I live in Pocatello and have a farm in the Magic Valley where six generations of my family have lived. I am the program director of the Snake River Alliance. The Alliance will submit written comments, so I will focus on some of our broad concerns this evening.

GNEP is not a research project. We are being asked to consider, in addition to a research facility, a commercial scale aqueous reprocessor, a sodium-cooled fast reactor and interim storage of commercial spent fuel.

GNEP is not a recycling plant. Recycling conserves resources and reduces waste. Reprocessing does neither. It uses enormous quantities of water. GNEP will not reduce waste. If spent fuel is reprocessed, what's the usual practice? It does not appreciably reduce the space needed in a

deep geologic repository.

For that to occur, spent fuel would need to be reprocessed repeatedly, but each cycle, even the first, increases other waste streams that remain hazardous for thousands of years. GNEP is not an effective response to global warming. Carbon displacement must be fast and cost effective. It takes about a decade to bring a nuclear reactor online. For every dime spent to purchase one new kilowatt of nuclear, we can purchase nearly two kilowatts of farmed wind or two and a half to nine kilowatts waste heat generation.

GNEP will violate the 1995 Settlement Agreement and challenge Idahoan's determination to ban long-term nuclear waste storage above the Snake River Aquifer. The plan is to bring in nuclear waste from around the world with no place for it to go next.

Congress has warned that the waste accumulation could begin within the decade before the facilities are built and last a century or more. Separated plutonium now stops at reprocessing sites around the world. This is precisely the scenario that led the State of Idaho to sign the 1995 Settlement Agreement and Idaho voters to ratify it.

GNEP will dramatically increase nuclear threats to our environment. Reprocessing is the dirtiest step in the nuclear process. It accounts for alliance share of air pollution from nuclear power and uses and contaminates vast quantities of water.

Admiral Rickover, the father of the U.S. Nuclear Navy, said of sodium cooled fast reactors that that they are quote, expensive to build, complex to operate, susceptible to prolong shut down as a result of even minor malfunctions and difficult and time consuming to repair, end quote. They also leak, catch fire, and meltdown.

GNEP will squander taxpayer dollars. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that reprocessing the spent fuel now destined for Yucca Mountain, and make no mistake that's the spent fuel that would come to Idaho instead, would cost up to 100 billion dollars more than direct disposal.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

BEATRICE BRAILSFORD: GNEP will compromise decades of this country's work to control nuclear weapons. Gerald Ford banned U.S. commercial spent fuel repossessing, a ban reaffirmed by Jimmy

Carter, the only nuclear engineer ever elected president of the United States.

The U.S. decision to refrain from reprocessing has had a significant positive effect on the responsible international community.

In closing, key details of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership have yet to be worked out, but it's clear the scheme will impose heavy economic security and environmental costs. It must have the informed consent of the people who will bear those costs, and it must have sustained, national support over decades.

The federal government's determination to reach a final decision in 15 months shortchanges the public's scrutiny and debate necessary for both informed consent and national support. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Katherine Daly, then Margo Proksa, and Jeannie Winter, and I will call a brief recess after Ms. Winter.

KATHERINE DALY: My name is Katherine Daly. I live in Pocatello, Idaho.

Have you ever noticed in looking at a map of Idaho that the Snake River cuts a big smile across the lower half from east to west? Situated as

we are at the edge of a high desert, we depend heavily on the water resource of that Snake River smile.

Here in the west, water is such a scare and valuable commodity that the availability, naturally the potability of it, often dictates the value of our land. That brings me to the ground rules, or shall I say the ground water rule?

At the eastern edge of the Snake River Plain lies an underground aquifer. More than 15 years ago, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the Snake River aquifer as a sole source aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The designation of sole source aquifer means a large number of people have no alternative local source of drinking water. In the case of this aquifer, the Snake River aquifer, it is the sole source for more than 300,000 Idahoans.

The foundation of Idaho's economy is based on the agriculture, thus the Snake River and its tributaries play a major role in the livelihood of this state. We have a lot at stake in the protection of our water, land, and air quality.

I have some questions and I ask them in hopes that they'll be addressed in the Programmatic

EIS. How much usable plutonium would be generated by GNEP reprocessing on an annual basis and where and how would it be stored?

Has a cost benefit study been done regarding the reprocessing? I read that a recent Harvard study concluded that reprocessing planned for GNEP would increase our spent fuel management costs by 80 percent compared to once through approaches. Is that true? I hope that that would be addressed in the Programmatic EIS.

How do we propose to afford GNEP? As I understand it, reprocessing poses significant air pollution. What would we do to protect our air quality in Idaho should GNEP come here? How much water is needed daily to support the GNEP reprocessing plan, and where does the waste water from that process go? Should GNEP come to Idaho, what would the DOE do to ensure the protection of the Snake River and that of its aquifer?

Those are my questions and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you so much. The next speaker is Margo Proksa and then Jeannie Winter.

MARGO PROKSA: My name is Margo Proksa.

I live in Pocatello. I'm a proud member of the Snake River --

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Speak into the mic.

MARGO PROKSA: My name is Margo Proksa. I'm from Pocatello, Idaho. I'm a proud member of the Snake River Alliance.

This is quite a snow job. You're all convinced in confidence that human error will not be a part of the GNEP picture, that the benefits will outweigh any and all accidents, or now unforeseen acts of terrorism resulting from the widespread use of nuclear energy, and the movement of radioactive material around the world.

The cost to produce and manage nuclear energy and materials is astronomical. This is all about a lot of imaginary on built, unproven technology. We're human, not God. We make mistakes. Remember Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, the cost of the clean-up of nuclear waste, not just at the INL, but all over this country that has not yet been accomplished?

Thank you, genuinely, all of you for your enthusiasm to save the world. Try focusing on renewables, conservation and clean-up. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. The last speaker before we take a break will be Jeannie Winter.

JEANNIE WINTER: I didn't come here to speak. I came here to listen. I didn't know about this project until Sunday -- well, actually I read the column today from the Sunday newspaper. John Bane's (phonetic) column and Margo called me and asked me to attend the meeting with her. And I'm speaking only as a mother, a grandmother, and a great grandmother.

I agree with the fellow from the Teton Valley. I think there are a lot of issues and questions that were not answered here tonight. And I did come here expecting to hear something from both sides.

It says down here at the bottom of this handout that for the GNEP PEIS, the DOE will hold public meetings in the vicinity of all sites that may be effected by the GNEP alternative. I'm from Inkom, Idaho. An interstate highway runs on one side of the town and a railroad through the other.

I was reminded of a quote from Abraham Lincoln what goes up, must come down, down, down. And I'm thinking that I don't know how much of this

processing is going to go in or out of this facility.

I imagine it would either go by truck or rail. How much of an increase will there be in it? That's just one of the questions I have. I have a great many. I would like to know more about this. And that's why I came here tonight. I don't know enough.

And I think that there needs to be more public meetings. I believe that little towns like Inkom, Idaho and other places where rails and highways go through need to know more about the type of transportation and the reliability of the transportation, whether there will be an increase or what.

And I am grateful for the opportunity of being here. I do feel much better informed than I was when I came here, but I do need a lot more information and I thank you for this opportunity.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. As I said, I'd like to call a break now for about five minutes or so. Again, I thank you very much. You've been just a terrific group and I really appreciate that. You're certainly invited to stay. Thanks again.

And the first four speakers when we

start up again will be Alan Howell, Heather MacLean, Hans Gougar, and Keith Oliver.

We'll now recess for five minutes.

(Recess.)

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: I think it's only fair to let you know how we're doing. We have not had all 66 people who signed up speak, but we've had close to 66 people speak and my list now extends to 95. A couple of those people between 66 and 95 will not be here, but most of them are.

So you can figure it out. We're probably two-thirds of the way through and so if we move right along we probably have another hour and 15 minutes, maybe an hour and a half, just so you know in case you have a baby-sitter waiting for you at home.

We are going to have to a take a break at about 10:10 just for short period of time. We've gone much longer than the court reporter was prepared for so we have some paper coming in at about that time, so maybe we'll do a refill about then.

Okay. Our next speaker is Alan Howell, and Mr. Howell will be followed by Heather MacLean, Hans Gougar, is it, and Keith Oliver.

ALAN HOWELL: Thank you, Mr. Lawson.

The crowd's a little bit more comfortable to talk to instead of having all the chairs full.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm the chair of the Lemhi County Economic Development Corporation and the co-chair with the CEDA Board -- the Custer Economic Development Association.

We will be submitting tonight, and I will not read for redundancy sake, the letters that we have here, but we will be submitting letters in support of this endeavor. We have heard some interesting comments. It's mindful of the history of what has gone on out here at the site. In '49, they were asked to create a reactor. In '51, we turned the lights on in Arco.

Three Mile Island has some issues. DOE come out here and asked them to evaluate and process, come up with new safety standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have scientists, people that I trust to do this work and to get it right. There's concerns that's been expressed contrary to this, and those concerns do need to be answered. There's no doubt about that.

This is important to us today, tonight. We'll travel 260 miles round trip myself and that's only the people of Salmon. The good Mayor Stan Davis

and his administrator Gary Van Huffel will travel about 200 to 380 miles round trip tonight. We are part of this organization. This isn't all Idaho Falls', gentlemen. Okay.

I would submit to you, ladies and gentlemen, especially those that support this endeavor, that when you talk with these good people that you don't talk in if, maybe, or hope. I submit to you that you ask a question with four words and that would be, when can we start? Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is Heather MacLean and then Hans Gougar, and Keith Oliver, and Stewart Curtis.

HEATHER MacLEAN: Hi, my name is Heather MacLean. I recently moved to Idaho Falls because of the nuclear science and engineering expertise and leadership at the Idaho National Laboratory.

I support location of GNEP facilities in Idaho because of the reasons stated earlier and because they will attract more hard-working and responsible citizens to this community. I support recycling of nuclear fuel as the right thing to do from a technological standpoint and also because I believe it's good social policy and environmental

stewardship.

As a citizen of Idaho Falls, I support location of GNEP facilities in Idaho and look forward to the benefits GNEP will bring to the science and technology community, the local and state economy, and the continued contributions of good neighbors. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Mr. Gougar, you made the mistake of telling me how to pronounce your name and I haven't been able to do it since.

HANS GOUGAR: That's all right.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Hans Gougar, and then Keith Oliver, Stewart Curtis, and Daryl Olsen.

HANS GOUGAR: Thank you for the opportunity to present my opinions on the PEIS. My name is Hans Gougar. I'm a nuclear engineer at the Idaho National Laboratory, but I'm speaking as an Idaho Falls' resident for myself and on behalf of my wife Professor Mary Gougar of Idaho State University. She couldn't be here tonight, but because of her commitment to nuclear science and engineering education, a number of her students are here tonight to comment on this proposal.

We moved to Idaho about nine years ago because we learned, while attending graduate school, that INL's history -- of INL's history at the forefront of nuclear energy research and development.

We have not been disappointed. Both of us have had the honor to work with and among the most talented, creative, and dedicated scientists and engineers in the country. As reflected by the citations and technical journals, their participation in government research panels, universities, advisory committees, and international steering committees is an exemplary record of operational excellence here at the INL.

The expertise and dedication of these professionals are reflected in the impact on nuclear technology at the INL facilities that have had -- have had from MTR, ATR, EBR-1, EBR-2, S5G, and the other naval prototypes, LOFT, NPR, BORAX, IFR and many other projects attest to the ability of this community and workforce to support and conduct nuclear research and development safely and competently. This will continue with GNEP.

We moved here when my son was about one year old. My wife was carrying our daughter. They are now both very healthy, and vivacious, and

intelligent children. It would be difficult to find a safer and cleaner place to raise a family.

This is not in spite of the INL, but, in deed, partly because of it, the laparstone (phonetic) of all disciplines, levels, and skills maintain the highest standard of the personal safety and environmental stewardship while at work. Then they take it home with them and teach it to their families and to their neighbors.

With this dedicated and highly trained workforce, a legacy of nuclear achievement and support of community, DOE will not find a better place to place the GNEP program. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Keith Oliver to be followed by Stewart Curtis, Daryl Olsen, and John Tanner.

KEITH OLIVER: I had a letter written, but over the course of the last four hours almost all that stuff's been covered. So my name is Keith Oliver. I am a graduate student here. I'm a native Idahoan and I'd like to speak from that platform not just specifically as a graduate student.

In my undergraduate course work, I took a coarse, an elective course on alternative energy sources. And we went over wind, solar, geothermal

power, my professor was a very strong proponent of wind power.

And at the end of the course, I basically came to the realization that none of these sources of energy would be able to replace the base load power provided by coal, and also nuclear power right now. And in order to provide that base load power without greenhouse gas emissions, nuclear power would be essential.

My professor was, like I said, a proponent of wind power, but he conceded that nuclear power would eventually have to become part of the -- a larger part of the energy portion of America.

And so, you know, I'd just like to express my support for GNEP and also say that I'm glad that we are moving in this direction to finally closing the fuel cycle in helping to ensure that countries around the world aren't going to develop this, you know, reprocessing facilities, and enrichment facilities on their own. And that we're going to help, you know, keep them -- steer them away from that because they can use that to build weapons.

And I also wanted to say that I respect the opinions of a lot of the people who have environmental concerns. I, myself, am a backpacker,

rafter, and I enjoy the environment, but I realize that we need to be pragmatic and that as long as we're going to consume electricity, we need to balance our electrical need with the realistic development. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. I should say that Stacie Oliver, who was probably related, left a statement here earlier this evening.

Our next speaker is Stewart Curtis, and then Daryl Olsen, John Tanner, and Robert Murdock.

STEWART CURTIS: Hi. I'm Stewart Curtis. I'm an INL employee, but I'm speaking as a private citizen. I'm a third generation Idahoan and proud of it, but we do welcome others.

I'm pro-environment. I'm pro-people, and I'm pro-nuclear. And I have to admit that I am biased because I'm the son of George J. Curtis, Sr., who was a nuclear chemist out at the INL for 37 years. His main duties was fuel recycling, or fuel reprocessing.

When he retired, he spent the last 15 years writing letters to editor and he didn't say GNEP, but he said things like IFR, and educate people, and make the world a better place.

I am an occupational and environmental

physician. I get to take care of people who are injured, if that does occur, at the site. So I do have a vested interest whether it's in the Idaho clean-up Project or in the research and development.

As part of my training and board certification for occupational medicine, I am versed in environmental risk assessment. And I would ask the stakeholders and others people who are involved in making these decisions to learn about the acronym that's called NIMBY, "not in my backyard."

It's a risk communication issue. And as far as I'm concerned from a sound scientific basis, not that there wouldn't be problems ahead, but I would say for eastern Idaho, we should go a different turn called YIMBY, which is "yes in my backyard."

There also is a public and political perception and psychology with other proposed sites, such as the Manhattan sites with the war psychology that goes along those areas -- where those areas were created -- those facilities created weapons which they did what they were proposed to do. However, the INL was created and has a heritage of atoms for peace.

The INL's infrastructure, as repeated many times tonight, is an area which can complete the

nuclear fuel cycle. I believe we have a legacy to cover humanitarian issues for a safer world, a clean environment, and our biosphere. If we don't help assist with this, we now understand that the world is a community and we are all connected.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

STEWART CURTIS: So for us and our future generations, I propose that we all come together, and I welcome the opposition of -- we're all -- we're all in this together. And we -- all stakeholders should come together and discuss these issues. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Daryl Olsen will be our next speaker, and to be followed by John Tanner, Robert Murdock, and David Wigton.

DARYL OLSEN: Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Chairman, on behalf -- my name is Daryl Olsen and on behalf of the Rexburg area Chamber of Commerce, I'd like to read this letter from our board: Dear Mr. Spurgeon, on behalf of the Rexburg area of Chamber of Commerce, we'd like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership initiative.

We are confident that nuclear energy must and will be a far bigger piece of the energy production requirement. The GNEP initiative appears in all respects to provide the necessary elements to meet those production requirements in the future.

We are convinced that GNEP offers our best hope for a clean, safe, abundant proliferation resistant energy future for this country and the world. We are hopeful DOE will proceed quickly -- as quickly as possible to select the GNEP facilities and technologies needed to ensure that future demands are satisfied safely and clearly and that the selection will be here in eastern Idaho.

Eastern Idaho's universities provide highly trained and experienced people in addition to a strong and energetic upcoming generation of nuclear energy experts. We feel strongly that the economic impact this would have on our region and that is what this area needs.

Thank you for your consideration of eastern Idaho as the right place for GNEP. I'm also submitting for the record 18 letters from the Upper Valley Association of Realtors.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. John Tanner. Mr. Tanner will be followed by Robert

Murdock, David Wigton, and Betsy Connell.

JOHN TANNER: I'm John Tanner from Idaho Falls. I'm president of the Coalition 21, a 10-year old nuclear advocacy group.

First a couple points, sodium cooled reactors have had some very successful runs in the world including Idaho EBR-2 in Idaho Falls and the Phoenix reactor France. Those that have had problems such as super Phoenix -- it's not been a problem for the environment or health of the surroundings, but simply an economic failure.

Second, what triggers the ban on importation of spent fuel in Idaho was DOE's decision in 1992 to end reprocessing. The governor was willing to admit spent fuel provided something useful was done with it, but not if it was only going to be stored here.

Separating out the -- strong envision products from spent fuel removes most of the radioactivity and most of the heat production of the spent fuel. These are the real factors which determine the limits of how much waste can be buried in a restricted space.

These elements have half lives of only about 30 years and so can be buried where long-term

security is not needed. Opponents of GNEP point to the expense of reprocessing but ignore the expense of deep burial.

They also seem unaware that the price of newly mined uranium has more than tripled in the last couple of years, which makes recycled uranium that much more valuable.

Keeping the higher act tonight, the emeries, and curiums and so forth combined with the plutonium produces an unadulterated product which is too radioactive for terrorists to steal and too unattractive for rogue nations to even want.

There are better methods already well known for producing weapon's plutonium. Rather GNEP will offer a method for nations of good will to conduct reprocessing without having to store pure plutonium until it can be put back into a reactor.

Opponents of GNEP seem to misunderstand this point. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Mr. Murdock, Robert Murdock and then David Wigton, Betsy Connell, Beth Sellers.

ROBERT MURDOCK: Thank you. I'm Robert Murdock. I'm here on behalf of Murdock Farms, which is a -- this is our 118th year out here in Blackfoot.

I'm a fifth generation farmer. Our farm is located 14 miles west of Blackfoot.

My whole life has been spent living next to a nuclear site. And in my mind, my backyard is fine. Being a farmer, I am very familiar with how precious Idaho's natural resources are. And Idaho is outgrowing the wonderful clothes that our predecessors made for us.

Nuclear power hasn't been needed by Idaho because of our wonderful water resources, but that is changing. I haven't figured out how to grow crops without water. But I know we can make power without water. The future needs nuclear power. Idaho needs nuclear power.

We all want risk-free futures. But life has risks, and I am betting on the people at the INL to keep us safe. I support GNEP. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. David Wigton, and then Betsy Connell, and Beth Sellers, and Kerry Martin.

DAVID WIGTON: My name is David Wigton. I work for Washington Group International. I speak as a private citizen.

Secretary Bodman, I'd like to speak out in favor of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

In particular, I would like to support the involvement of the Idaho National Laboratory in this too important program.

I am an Idaho native and resident of Idaho Falls. I fully support any and all involvement that Idaho National Laboratory can have in the GNEP.

In my 20 years with Washington Group International, I spent most of my career working on projects related to cleaning up Cold War Facilities. I have experienced and been part of DOE's commitment to the environment in simply doing the right thing in regards to cleaning up legacy issues.

With that said, I am confident that whatever involvement the Idaho National Laboratory has with GNEP will not result in such legacy issues from a different era. Nuclear energy is clearly key to the United States to sustaining our growth rate and remaining competitive in our global economy.

This growth will require additional electrical -- and nuclear energy is the best way to accommodate the need. The objectives of GNEP fit this requirement and adjust the -- address the important fuel cycle issues. Idaho has the location, the land, the labor, and the laboratory to accommodate any and all needs of GNEP.

To summarize, and I hope that all of your efforts will result in one, the approval of funding of GNEP -- of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and, two, the utilization of great resources of Idaho at Idaho National Laboratory. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. The next speaker will be Betsy Connell, and she'll be followed by Beth Sellers, Kerry Martin, and William Terry. Ms. Connell.

BETSY CONNELL: My name is Betsy Connell and I'm speaking tonight on behalf of Pete Pacheco, a colleague who's on business travel.

This is Pete's statement. I am proud to live and work in Idaho Falls. I strongly support the Global Nuclear Energy Project. The aim of the global partnership is to develop new technology, guided by globally accepted policies; policies that assure the technology is safe, secure, and globally sustainable over this century.

There are stacks of reports identifying the need for U.S. leadership in a program like GNEP. The inescapable conclusion is a global economic development will demand huge amounts of clean energy over the century.

As we see in Asia today, nuclear will power much of the new generation of electricity. These economic forces will drive widespread use of nuclear power and recycle of used fuel. The central question is will future nuclear enterprises deployed around the world be safe, be secure, preventing use of technology by terrorists, and be widely available as a dependable source of power?

The answers to this question and the outcome is too important to leave to chance. U.S. and Idaho leadership and technical know-how is needed for this endeavor. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Before Beth Sellers -- is Beth Sellers here, by the way?

JEFF PERRY: I am not Beth Sellers, but I am going to speak for her.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Oh, you are.

JEFF PERRY: Yes.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Okay. Before you do, I just want to mention that there was a Kathleen Lewis who was here earlier. She decided that she would not speak, but she has left her comment. So please go ahead.

JEFF PERRY: Beth asked me to read this letter on her behalf. She asked me to convey that

she wrote this letter as a private citizen, and not in her capacity as a manager of the Idaho operations.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: And your name, please.

JEFF PERRY: My name is Jeff Perry.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you.

JEFF PERRY: I join the multitude of leaders throughout the world of expressing my support of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. The time for action for resurges in nuclear power in the United States is upon us, and we all, Congress, our 50 states, and citizens need to get behind this initiative before the rest of the world leaves us in their technological wake.

Why nuclear? Energy security is a very real issue for the world as the demands for energy increase and the sources of fossil fuel become more politically unsteady. The fact is it will take all sources of energy, renewables, fossil fuels, and nuclear to maintain the lifestyle being enjoyed today and those projected for the future around the world.

There are many issues that can be positively addressed through the use of nuclear power. The first and foremost is the environmental legacy we are leaving our grandchildren. Will it be

one of such vast proportions that we will never recover as a world?

Studied by respected scientists and leaders, such as James Lovelock and Patrick Moore, and to get the global warming is real and the direct result of greenhouse gas formation from coal and fossil fuel usage.

A recent study by Texas A&M concludes that the weather patterns throughout the Pacific are affected by manmade pollution in creating an intensified storm tracking in the Pacific.

Nuclear power is demonstrated with today's decade's old technology to be a clean, reliable, and safe source of electricity. The future power plants will include passing safety systems as well as a closed fuel cycle that will reduce the volume of radioactive waste that are currently generated by the open cycle systems widely in use today.

An R&D emphasis is being placed on renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, Bio Max, and geothermal. The trouble with wind and solar are intermittent and unpredictable sources of energy because the sun and the wind do not function 24/7.

Why GNEP? This global comprehensive program provides for proliferation resistant recycling of spent nuclear fuel. This allows for those smaller countries with no nuclear energy today to participate by supplying fresh fuel for their reactors and then replacing it when needed.

A country with recycling capabilities will receive their used fuel and process it for future usage. The cycle will continue ad infinitum.

Where? The history of Idaho National Laboratory, 52 reactors built and tested and all but three taken down, demonstrates that they do have the work of cutting edge technology safely.

In addition, the Lab's history includes decades of repossessing as well as successful execution of waste management. The nation's mathematical minds and nuclear scientists are currently residing at the INL.

The surrounding community in southeastern Idaho is very supportive of nuclear energy and as communicated and demonstrated over and over by being active participants in public outreach opportunities. This includes a welcoming attitude and willingness to embrace the future changes that will certainly result from the GNEP mission coming to

Idaho, should that occur.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

JEFF PERRY: Thank you for seeking public input on this very important program. We'll look forward to the U.S. government moving on to the next steps in making nuclear power a very large part of our future energy needs. Elizabeth Sellers.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. Okay. We're just going to take a minute or two here to change paper. The next person will be Kerry Martin, and then there will be William Terry, Holly Ashley, and Anthony LaPorta.

THE REPORTER: Okay.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: That was quick.

THE REPORTER: That was fast.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Okay. Great. This will be Kerry Martin. Thank you.

KERRY MARTIN: I'm Kerry Martin. I just want to thank DOE for the proposed evaluation of the facilities that comprise GNEP. I do believe it's an important part of -- what should be an important part of a diverse energy policy for this country, and I hope that they continue with this process. And I think the scope's appropriate. As they continue this

process, I just hope they remember that Idaho's the way to go.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. William Terry, and then Holly Ashley, Anthony LaPorta, and Rob Chiles.

WILLIAM TERRY: My name is William Terry. I'm a nuclear reactor physicist at the Idaho National Laboratory, but I'm speaking as a private citizen.

Some of the opponents of the GNEP program have raised points that should be answered; particularly the question about the water requirements. Certainly the Idaho National Laboratory has a moral obligation, if GNEP facilities are sited here, to design, build, and operate them in a manner that's safe to the community that hosts them and benign to the environment.

As a member of that team, I'm confident that we will do that. But some of the points that the opponents have raised are somewhat spurious I think. Many of them are advocating alternative energy sources. I think they haven't done their arithmetic correctly.

I have studied this and I calculate that to supply an amount of electricity equal to the

current generation of the United States by solar panels would require between 5,000 and 10,000 square miles of land area and cost a better part of a trillion dollars just for the solar electric alone.

I have done calculations on wind power, but wind power is just a degraded form of solar power, so one would expect the figures for land requirements and money to be comparable to those for solar panels.

The only energy resources that exist in sufficient quantities to supply the growing global energy demand are coal and nuclear power. And we're all aware of the problems that coal and other fossil fuels impose in terms of global warming.

I'd like to provide a perspective that I like to use for nuclear safety versus the safety of coal and other fossil fuels. According to the World Health Organization of the United Nations, currently right now coal and fossil fuel kill about three million people worldwide.

The worst nuclear accident that happened so far, probably by far the worst that ever will happen is Chernobyl. The latest estimate on the eventual mortalities from Chernobyl is that 3,000 people, give or take a few, will die prematurely from

radiation emitted by the Chernobyl accident.

Three million a year divided by 3,000 per accident comes out to be 1,000 accidents per year; that means it would take 1,000 Chernobyl accidents per year to kill as many people that die right now because of coal and other fossil fuels. Seen in that light, it doesn't make much sense to oppose nuclear power on safety and health grounds.

Certainly a nuclear accident is a disaster even if nobody is injured, but we have the technology and we have the duty to design these things safely, and we can do it.

Make no mistake, other countries are going to go nuclear and they have two ways to do it: They can either build the fuel manufacturing facilities that can easily be diverted into the production of nuclear weapons or they can sign onto the GNEP partnership and forgo the construction of these facilities in return for a guaranteed supply of fuel.

The GNEP program will not create waste, it will reduce waste. It will burn the waste, and all you'll have left is the fission products. If you were going to dispose of spent fuel, you have to isolate it for hundreds of thousands of years because

10 half lives of plutonium-239 is 240,000 years.

If you take all of the long-lived acetonide out and use them for fuel, you're left with fission products. You have to dispose of fission products within -- I mean, the fission products have to be protected for a few 100 years.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

WILLIAM TERRY: I've seen a piece of cloth in France called the Biah tapestry. 1,000 years old. It's almost intact. If we can protect a piece of cloth for 1,000 years, we can certainly store fission products for a few 100 years.

I am totally in support of siting the GNEP facility in the Idaho National Laboratory provided that they can be designed and benignly to the environment.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Okay. Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Holly Ashley, and then it will be Anthony LaPorta, Robb Chiles, and Lane Allgood.

HOLLY ASHLEY: My name is Holly Ashley, and I am a fifth generation eastern Idahoan with children and grandchildren who live here in eastern Idaho. I grew up on a farm not far from the INL

boundary and I have worked both at the INL and also in other private industry outside the DOE environment.

And when I think about the environment in regards to this proposal, I think about the initiatives that the GNEP program is going to accomplish and I believe that it is not only the right thing for the global world environment in which we live in today, but it's also the right thing for eastern Idaho. I've heard that the Batt agreement might not be -- allow this to occur as currently written, but I also believe that circumstances and technologies change, and so maybe it's time to change the Batt agreement. Okay.

The other thing I'd also like to say is that my backyard is not just here in Idaho when we talk about nuclear. It's about the world and it's -- we must be ensured that we have a safe, efficient, reliable use in nuclear power.

And I believe DOE has been listening to all of the environmental concerns that everybody has expressed, not only here tonight, but in the past, and that we have worked to develop new technologies and to deal with many of those concerns that have been brought up.

Many of those ways to resolve those concerns were developed here at the INL with the talented people that are still here today to help resolve the problems or any concerns that we still might have today.

And in conclusion, I would like to express that my 85-year old father asks me every time I talk to him, have you started building it yet? Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thanks. Anthony LaPorta? Okay. Robb Chiles. Mr. Chiles will be followed by Lane Allgood, Terry Tomberlin, and William Toth.

ROBB CHILES: Thank you. My name is Robb Chiles. I'm the president and CEO of the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce and Convention Visitor's Bureau. And I've got a letter -- I actually have two letters here. I was asked if I could also read into the record a letter from our superintendent of school from District 91; is that okay?

RAYMOND V. FURSTENAU: He had to step away.

ROBB CHILES: Okay. On behalf of the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce, we strongly

voice our support for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and assure the Department of Energy that eastern Idaho is the ideal location for this initiative.

There are many advantages as to why eastern Idaho is the ideal candidate for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. First and foremost, the INL has been a good neighbor for over 50 years and has long been supported by the citizens of Idaho Falls. It is the birthplace of peaceful applications of atomic energy and has been the premier laboratory for nuclear research and development.

The INL has shaped the community in which we live resulting in significant socioeconomic impacts throughout the region. It has produced an educated workforce that can be considered one of the most highly trained and experienced people in the nation for GNEP's operations and research and development.

Idaho Falls is home for the Center of Advanced Energy Studies, a program through which the government, private interest, and academia produce a new generation of people to solve energy problems facing the world.

According to the non-profit corporation

for Enterprise Development, Idaho leads the nation in short-term job growth, as their No. 1, ranks them among the best, No. 2, in long-term job growth, and unemployment where it ranks fourth.

As the regional epicenter for healthcare, shopping, and entertainment, Idaho Falls is rapidly attracting small business -- small and large businesses alike, and consistently finds itself listed in the top 10 rankings of any prestigious magazine, newspapers, and professional community research publication.

The business community recognizes that the INL plays an important role in the economic vitality of the region. It currently employs thousands of employees and has an economic impact in the billions. It also recognizes the importance of expanding the use of safe, clean, and affordable nuclear power in the United States and abroad.

We know nuclear energy will, of simple necessity, become a greater contributor to our future energy needs. We feel Idaho Falls is the most logical place for this initiative and strongly support this initiative.

We stand behind our credentials and encourage the Department of Energy to seriously

consider locating the proposed GNEP initiative in eastern Idaho. We appreciate your consideration.

And then speaking on behalf of the superintendent of Idaho Falls School District 91: Mr. George Bodman, I would like to communicate his support for the selection of Idaho Falls as the site for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

From the K-12 educational perspective, what enhances the local economy enhances our ability to provide quality education to our students. Although the majority of our funding is provided from the State General Fund, that funding is driven by student enrollment.

A vibrant and stable economy results in the stable enrollment, and as families move into the area, they add to the diversity of our community and schools. Our students benefit from the different perspectives that diversity brings, helping them to develop greater cultural capital.

The school district has a responsibility to the community to provide a quality education to graduate students who posses the knowledge and skill necessary to be successful at the post-secondary level, or to enter the workforce, and to enable employers to attract employers -- employees who

accept or reject an offer based on the quality of the local educational system.

The INL is a valued partner in assisting us to meet the responsibility, and we would view GNEP as an asset to our school community. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: All right. Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Lane Allgood, and then Terry Tomberlin, William Toth, and David Kipping.

LANE ALLGOOD: Thank you. My name is Lane Allgood and I'm the executive director for Partnership for Science and Technology. However, tonight I'm speaking as a private citizen as our organization's comments were delivered earlier this evening.

Last year I was very happy to learn that one of the major key components of the GNEP siting process would be community support. And I think it should be very apparent to DOE with tonight's results that Idaho overwhelmingly supports the GNEP program. And I'm confident that the sites proposed in eastern Idaho will be the -- will prove to be the best location for all three of the facilities.

My only concern really is with the 2008

siting decision date. I've been around long enough to see and I do know that some election year decisions -- I've seen some election year decisions that did not appear to be made based on the best available site, but how many votes the winning state might garner for whichever party was in power.

An official history of the Atomic Energy Commission listed March 1, 1949 as the date of the first announcement by the AEC in selection of the National Reactor Testing Station Idaho. Since that time, the residents of Idaho have become confident with nuclear research and realized that nuclear power must and will play a larger role in the future production of the world's energy requirements.

Last month I had the opportunity to provide testimony to the Idaho State Legislature as they debated Idaho's first state energy plan in more than 27 years. I'm happy to report that both nuclear power and the Idaho National Laboratory have a prominent position in the state plan for the state's future energy production.

And why shouldn't it? In a recent survey conducted by Boise State University, this year's Fiesta Bowl champions, it showed that a majority of Idaho citizens support nuclear research

at the laboratory. And just a few days ago, the Idaho State Legislature passed a resolution recommending that the GNEP facilities be placed in Idaho.

So in closing, I just want to remind everyone that the State of Idaho led the first nuclear era and is now ready to lead the second. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. The next speaker is Terry Tomberlin, and then William Toth, David Kipping, and Frank Schwartz.

TERRY TOMBERLIN: Good evening. My name is Terry Tomberlin and I'm speaking as a private citizen having resided in the Idaho Falls area for over 33 years. During most of that time, I have had significant experience at the INL in relation to nuclear safety.

Based on that experience, I believe that Idaho possesses the necessary nuclear safety infrastructure to ensure that the subject proposed GNEP facilities can be safely designed, constructed, operated, and be commissioned without posing unacceptable risks to the environment or to the public.

Idaho's previous experience, as has been

mentioned numerous times tonight, with successfully reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, and many years of successfully operating numerous reactors, including fast reactors, makes it well prepared to accommodate the GNEP facilities.

Going beyond general support, I would like to propose that the subject PEIS, or other appropriate GNEP documentation, include several specific items: No. 1, a thorough, but not overly conservative, assessment of the potential impact to the Snake River Plain Aquifer; 2, an assessment that clearly identifies the potential environmental impact in the United States of not closing the nuclear fuel cycle with additional transmutation of undesirable waste nuclides; and 3, an assessment that addresses the enhanced environmental protection that may be achieved by reducing reprocessing plutonium proliferation risks, be it spiking nuclear fuel with neptunium 237 with the intent to automatically create a spent fuel mix of plutonium nuclides that would not be suitable for weapon's production. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you, sir. William Toth, and he would be followed by David Kipping, Frank Schwartz, and Scott Stoddard.

WILLIAM TOTH: Thank you for the

opportunity to address this view on the GNEP program. My name is William Toth. I'm a retired scientist and former research manager for the INL, and a former senior scientist from John Hopkins University Physics Laboratory, but tonight I'm representing myself as a private citizen.

I would like to speak out in favor of the GNEP program and in particular in support of the Idaho National Laboratory in being involved in this all too important program. It is far past the time for our nation to act in its own interest in securing its energy future. That future must include nuclear energy.

INEL was the leader, as Lane said, in the birth in the first era of peaceful, safe, nuclear energy use, and it can be counted on to be a leader for the revival in the second era of nuclear energy.

As a research scientist and later a research manager, I spent most of my 30-year career analyzing various energy systems and developing technologies for energy systems, energy -- industrial energy conservation, and alternate technologies.

My background is non-nuclear, but I've developed a strong pro-nuclear stance as a result of my many involvements in analyzing energy technologies

as well as energy supplies for the future of our country and the world.

We do need to conserve. We do need to use renewable energies. We do need to rely on fossil fuels to some extent. But as any good investment analyst would tell you in investing for your future, you should diversify, and that diversification includes nuclear energy.

And you have to have a base investment and -- for reducing the greenhouse gases and reliance on fossil fuels, you have to go to nuclear energy.

Further, I've worked with scientists and engineers at the INL for over 20 years, and I've developed a profound respect for their intelligence, their capabilities and their dedication of the staff here.

It would be an ideal site for GNEP activities, particularly the research facility. However, with the experience of the site and the capabilities in running a recycling facility, and the many advanced nuclear reactors, it would also be an ideal location for all three facilities.

So just in closing, I hope that your efforts will result in the approval and funding of the GNEP partnership and that, secondly, you will

utilize the great resources here at the Idaho National Laboratory. We here in Idaho stand ready to help support a nuclear renaissance that is long overdue.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. David Kipping would be our next speaker, and then Frank Schwartz, Scott Stoddard, and Wray Landon.

DAVID KIPPING: My name is David Kipping. As part of my background I was on the INL Citizen's Advisory board for six years, two years as a chair of that organization, so I have a little background on nuclear.

I'm going to do something a little different than the -- some of the people that have come before me. I'm going to actually offer some scoping comments for the Environmental Impact Statement; that is, things that I believe that the Environmental Impact Statement should deal with.

In particular, I'm going to talk about the transmutation technology, which is a central part of the GNEP project. I will cast this in terms of questions, not rhetorical questions, but questions that I feel should be answered and I certainly hope will be answered in the Environmental Impact Statement.

So we're talking about this transmutation. We would like -- one of the things we should know is what is the current state of that technology? Is it a proven technology or will it require a lot of research, which I think it will?

Secondly, what kind of research will be required before goals of GNEP transmutation can be reached? Third, who will be responsible for developing this technology? Will it be done by DOE, or will it be done by private companies?

Fourth, I notice in the Notice of Intent, and in the presentation earlier tonight, that the research facility that is part of the GNEP project specifically is not tasked with looking into transmutation technology. I find that a little surprising because it seems to me that is the most unproven technology of all the things that is being suggested. And so, again, who is going to do this research? If DOE is not going to do it, presumably this will be done by private industry. I find that a little disturbing.

Since this technology is certainly not proven, if the development of this technology proves not to be successful, particularly on production stake as we're talking about, then what impact will

that have on the overall GNEP program, especially the domestic problem?

If the transmutation turns out to be something that doesn't work, does that kill the whole GNEP program? Does it -- what impact does it have on the savings on Yucca Mountain?

So that's -- I also just want to talk very briefly about the issue of ownership of facilities. The -- there is talk in the Notice of Ownership either by the DOE or by private ownership. And so if some of the facilities are privately owned, and some are not, what are the pros and cons of -- of that? What is DOE's preferred ownership, privately owned, or government owned? And if they are privately owned, how are they managed; how is the goals of GNEP going to be managed through a privately owned facility? Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very much. Frank Schwartz. Scott Stoddard. Wray Landon. Following Mr. Landon would be Dave Sommer, and Rebecca Casper.

WRAY LANDON: I'm Wray Landon. I'm a resident of Idaho Falls and an employee of Battelle Energy Alliance. The following comments are my personal position.

I'm strongly in support of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement project alternative to the proposed alternative. GNEP is the right approach to strengthen the role of nuclear, an overall solution to domestic and global energy needs.

This program should move forward to reduce dependence on fossil fuel, reduce the production of greenhouse gases, bring closure to the United States nuclear fuel cycle, reduce the potential for nuclear materials proliferation, and return the United States to a preeminent role in nuclear energy, a position we held and lost.

The GNEP program should move forward, regardless of site selection. Having said that, I believe that the Idaho National Laboratory has great advantages as a participating site for GNEP projects. These advantages include experience in nuclear reactor design and development, experience in nuclear fuel cycle facility design and development -- deployment -- I'm sorry -- experience in ongoing nuclear fuel cycle research facilities that are supportive of GNEP project needs an existing site suitable for an advanced reactor and a supportive community and state.

To successfully bring GNEP projects to the INL, the 1995 Settlement Agreement between the State of Idaho, the Department of Energy, and the Department of the Navy, must be carefully reconsidered and perhaps renegotiated to the mutual benefit of the parties.

This agreement has been a foundation for the important ongoing environmental clean-up of the Idaho site, and performance to date on clean-up has demonstrated DOE's commitment to environmental management.

We all need to take the long view. The power industry in this country is now planning to move into the deployment of new nuclear generating capacity. GNEP compliments the expansion of the commercial nuclear fleet and the emergence of a nuclear-based hydrogen economy. Thank you for the opportunity.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you. David Sommer? You're not David Sommer. Rebecca Casper. And you, Ms. Casper, have the privilege of being the last person on my list.

REBECCA CASPER: Having the last word, can you imagine? I'm going to tell my husband of this story. I stand to speak in support of siting

GNEP here in eastern Idaho. I'm going to speak on a very personal level tonight.

About 20 years ago, I met and fell in love with, and married a young man from Idaho Falls. We dated in Washington, D.C. We lived in San Francisco. We lived in Phoenix. We lived in Salt Lake City. Always big places. And when the time came that he wanted to move back home, I cringed and thought I will never move to a small town and be happy.

Things happened, negotiations happened, and we moved here. And I have to tell you that I am proud to be a resident of Idaho Falls. Idaho Falls is one of those communities that every other small city in America wishes it could be. It's a beautiful wholesome place to raise my family, and then I'm sure most of the people in this room would agree with me.

A big part of my conversion to loving this community is the INL and what it represents and what it brings to the community, and how it enriches this place. My husband and I are the parents of four children. We are in a season of education for our kids. We have a first grader, and we have someone who's in high school, and we have kids in-between.

We want as parents the very best

education possible for our children, every parent does. INL plays a large role in the quality of the educational experience that my kids are able to obtain here in this community.

First of all, the fortune -- the fortunes of the local school districts rise and fall with the local economy. And the local economy is in a large part driven by what happens out west of town.

And when cuts are made, the school district suffers because it loses students and families. When new hirings occur, the school district blossoms a little bit more, and has more resources and the quality of the educational program's increase.

Another reason, educational programs like Project Lead the Way, which is funded by BEA, are making a huge difference. I have a son that goes to this program. He's learning skills that will be relevant for his future. I'm very grateful for that kind of cooperation between the school district and the site.

The availability of the Center, the New Center for Advanced Energy Studies is another local community out there that represents -- or provides a brain trust that will undoubtedly enhance the quality

of the local academic environment that I'm going to be raising my -- or that I am raising my children in.

So there's a direct link between a healthy INL and a healthy educational environment I think as a parent. One of my sons has been interested in all kinds of energy sources since he had to do a report in the third grade. He chose to do his report on fuel cells.

He drew with his magic markers and his crayons a -- several pictures and schemes of how a fuel cell works. He then grew into the kind of kid that spent his allowance money on ordering solar cells from catalogues. And he was so proud of his dad when his dad installed a solar panel on our camping trailer.

He made us go on a picnic. We found out later we were trespassing, but we took our family picnic up to the wind mills out on the hills, a couple -- about a year ago. He's truly interested in this.

And when I told him about this meeting, he said not only am I shy, academically -- my son wanted to come and testify, but he -- when he found out he couldn't, because he has a track meet, he said, well, you know, I want to be able to tell them

that nuclear energy is the way to go. It's part of my future.

And I guess that's the key word. That's the thing that inspires me as a mother is thinking about the future for my children.

I urge you to support siting it here. I am not concerned about safety. And I kind of almost take offense to those who might say that a parent would be irresponsible to wish for nuclear facilities to be close by. I don't have any concerns about safety. Why? Because -- well, I was late getting here tonight. I was at a local elementary school that was having a health and safety fair that was being staffed in large part by staff members from the INL. They were teaching a whole couple of schools worth of elementary kids all about health and safety.

And if those people raise their families here and what they do is safe enough for them, I trust that. Parents don't put their own families at risk.

I guess, again, going back to that word future, please site any or all of those GNEP facilities in our backyard. It's an investment in the future of our state, of our nation, our world, and of our children. And with that, thank you.

HEARING OFFICER LAWSON: Thank you very much. Well, this is it. This concludes this session of the scoping meetings on the GNEP PEIS. I want to thank you very much for your participation and your comments. I know it takes a fair amount of time out of your schedule; not only to come to the meeting, but to prepare your comments.

I certainly want to appreciate -- to tell you how much I appreciate your staying by the guidelines. I've been keeping track of the average and we're just a little over two minutes, including getting up and sitting down, so I'm very, very pleased with that and I am sure you all appreciate that, too, but I certainly do.

I'd like also to remind you that you may continue to submit comments on the scope of this PEIS until the comment period closes on April 4. You may want to check you packet for explicit information regarding how and where to submit these comments.

Finally, I want to thank Mr. Black and Mr. Furstenau for being here and being patient as well. And Lani Lewis, our court reporter, you did a wonderful job and we really appreciate that.

And once, again, thank you all for coming and participating. And this meeting is now

closed. Thank you.

(The hearing concluded at 10:40 p.m.)

-ooOoo-

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF IDAHO )
COUNTY OF BONNEVILLE ) ss.
)

I, Lanice M. Lewis, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Idaho, do hereby certify:

That within entitled hearing was taken down by me in shorthand at the time and place therein named and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction, and that the foregoing transcript contains a full, true and verbatim record of said hearing.

I further certify that I have no interest in the event of the action.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 28th day of March 2007.

Lanice M. Lewis
Notary Public in and for
the State of Idaho.

My Commission Expires: 11-10-12.